

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, June 12, 2014

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School on alert over quality of its water

A SCHOOL was forced to shut its nursery and reception classes after higher than acceptable levels of bacteria were found in the water supply of its new multi-million pound extension.

Children in some classes at Rowley Hall Primary School were told to stay at home and others were told to use bottled water.

Pupils were told not to drink water in the new £3 million part of the Windsor Road school and not to use it for hand washing. Letters have been sent to parents about the matter.

The reception children were back yesterday after being off for two days and the nursery children will return next week.

The school said a regular check carried out at the new extension showed a 'slightly higher than acceptable level of bacteria' in the water supply. As a precaution the school stopped using any of the taps or toilets in that part of the building and closed the nursery and reception on Monday.

The water supply to the old building is not affected.

Chairman of governors Kevin Morris said: 'I must stress that there is absolutely no evidence of any children, staff or visitors being ill. This is a purely precautionary measure.'

Man's body is found in canal

THE body of a man has been pulled from a canal in Oldbury.

Officers were called to Bromford Bridge, in Bromford Lane, just before 11am on Tuesday.

Detectives arrived with firefighters to recover the body from the scene near to Sandwell and Dudley railway station. There are not believed to be any suspicious circumstances.

Officers remained for several hours to investigate, turning away boats and users of the towpath.

TURBO CHARGED BROADBAND BID

Workman statue has lost shovel in crash

A STATUE built as a symbol for Black Country workers on a busy traffic island has been damaged after it was hit by a car.

More than £1,000 of damage has been caused to the Heroic Worker statue standing on the Cinder Bank island on Dudley Southern Bypass. The worker has lost his shovel.

This is not the first time the bronze figure has been damaged, as it has suffered a spate of vandalism attacks over the years.

Dudley's transport boss, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said the council was seeking cash through the driver's insurance company to pay for the repairs to the damage.

Charlotte Baker has put together the catwalk show and clothes sale over the past few months as she wants to raise cash and awareness for Alzheimer's Research UK.

The statue was hit by a car in May last year, around 12 months after it was put up.

That's after her grandfather Arthur, who was in his 70s, was suddenly struck down with the disease before dying in May last year, around 12 months after it was put up.

Her other grandfather Bernard continues to live with a more slowly progressing form of the condition.

Trainee hairdresser Charlotte, aged 20 and from Hunsingrove Road, Halesowen, said: 'It's just been awful.'

'With my grandfather Arthur nobody saw it coming, he was always so independent and could do things for himself. But then we could see little things, he would forget some things and get his words mixed up. It completely turned him upside down. Within a year he was diagnosed, got really sick and passed away.'

Now her fashion show has been organised to take place at the Halesowen and Hunsingrove Labour Club on Hagley Road in Halesowen, where bookmaker Arthur would play snooker. Tickets to the show, at 7.30pm on Wednesday, cost £2, available from Charlotte on 07402 533315.

Fashion show in memory of grandfather



Charlotte Baker prepares to host a fashion show for Alzheimer's Research UK

Spitfire in hall fly-past

A SPITFIRE will take to the skies as one of the highlights of Armed Forces Day commemorations in front of veterans.

Thousands are expected to attend the annual event at Himley Hall and Park on Sunday, June 29, to celebrate the dedication of servicemen and women.

Dudley Council has announced an RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight spitfire flypast at around 2pm, weather permitting. The event starts at 11am.

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HALESOWEN CHRONICLE

Police take to the air to watch reserve

HELICOPTERS are being called in to help police swoop on illegal off-road bikers on a Dudley nature reserve.

A police sergeant has requested support from the National Police Air Service as officers attempt to catch the riders at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett.

A helicopter circled over the reserve for 15 minutes during a recent

visit by police and members of the Friends of Fens Pool group.

Police spokesman Carly Anderson said: "Requests can be made for a helicopter that is in the area to circle over the Fens Pool and see if there are any off-road vehicles. On this recent occasion, the helicopter circled for 15 minutes and there was no-one found but it was reassuring for the sergeant to see it."

"Fens Pool is a large open park, it is the ideal place for people to ride their off-road vehicles but it is also very dangerous and is illegal. People caught face having their vehicle seized."

Evelyn Bradley, chairman of the Friends of Fens Pool group, was with police and Brockmoor and Pensnett Councillor Judy Foster when the fly-over took place.

Ms Bradley has long-campaigned against the use of off-road vehicles on the 92 acre reserve. She said: "The reserve is very special and the bikers do a lot of damage. They are also associated with anti-social behaviour and walkers often face abuse when talking to them."

"The police helicopter is exactly what we want to help police on the ground."

Chance to visit pet hospital fun day

ANIMAL lovers are invited to a pet hospital open day.

Quinton PDSA PetAid hospital is throwing open its doors on Wednesday, offering behind-the-scenes tours and family fun.

Ian Fleming, senior vet at Quinton PDSA, said: "If you've ever wondered what goes on at one of the UK's busiest pet hospitals, make sure you join us at our open day when all will be revealed! There will be plenty of fun for all the family, with behind-the-scenes tours of the operating theatre and X-ray suite, plus free pet health checks for dogs."

"It gives people the chance to see how a PDSA pet hospital is run and learn more about the charity's vital work helping sick and injured pets. There will also be plenty of entertainment so it promises to be a great day out for everyone."

Cartoon duo Roobarb and Custard will provide entertainment. Refreshments will be available. The event will raise funds for a new PetAid hospital.

Quinton PDSA PetAid hospital provides a lifeline to thousands of pet owners struggling to cover the cost of vet care. Its services are funded by public support. To find out more visit www.pdsas.org.uk/fundraising

Charities get society boost

FIVE local good causes are celebrating after gaining donations from the Tipton and Coseley Building Society's Charitable Foundation.

The foundation has awarded cheques collectively worth more than £2,500 to Beanstalk Black Country, Christians Against Poverty, Deafblind UK, Dudley Arts Council and Sandwell Citizen Advocacy.

In addition, it has pledged to double the amount raised at the Tipton's charity golf day in July with equal amounts going to Beacon Centre for the Blind and Compton Hospice.

Open fire days

TWO fire stations will be hosting open days this summer.

Dudley Fire Station in Burton Road, is hosting its open day on July 5 between midday and 4pm. Smethwick station in Stony Lane, will be open between midday and 4pm on August 2.

Call for statue of Black Country's 'Schindler'

HE risked his own life to save thousands of Jews from the horrors of Nazi Germany

Major Frank Foley used his position as a passport control officer at the British Embassy to bend the rules to save Jews from the concentration camps.

Dubbed the 'British Schindler' he hid escapees in his own home. It is believed he saved more than 10,000 Jews from the gas chambers.

Now a Black Country MP is campaigning for lasting memorial to the war hero in the Black Country in honour of his bravery and achievements. He retired to Stourbridge where he lived at Eveson Road in Norton until his death in 1958.

Statue

There is already a statue dedicated to Major Foley in his home town of Highbridge in Somerset but there is nothing on a similar scale in the Dudley borough.

There is a memorial plaque at the entrance to Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge but Dudley North MP Austin believes a local statue would be a fitting tribute to Major Foley, as well as helping to teach younger generations about the Second World War and the Holocaust.

He said Major Foley, who also served in the First World War, was a 'true local hero' and his name deserved to be recognised and celebrated.

Born in 1884, he worked for the Foreign Office and became Head of the British Passport Control Office in Germany in the 1930s. As he watched Adolf Hitler's rise to power, he realised Jewish families were vulnerable having witnessed the racist measures introduced by the Nazis.

During his work as a passport officer, he interpreted rules on visas loosely and even forged passports enabling people to escape to Britain and Palestine.

He entered concentration camps and presented travel visas to the Nazi authorities. Mr Foley used skills picked up in the secret service to obtain false papers, passports and



The statue dedicated to Major Foley in Highbridge



Time to honour hero says Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North



The Frank Foley memorial plaque at Mary Stevens Park
 visas. It was only years later that the scale of his life-saving campaign came to light.

"When other European countries were sending Jews to concentration camps, Britain provided a safe haven for tens of thousands of refugees," said Mr Austin. "I think this period defines what it means to be British – our unique response to the Holocaust and role in the war gives us the right to claim a particular attachment to the values of democracy,

"Frank Foley embodies these values. His refusal to stand by when people were being singled out because of their race and religion marks him out as a true local hero."

Major Foley's efforts were not recognised during his lifetime but in 1999 the Jewish state recognised him as 'Righteous Amongst the Nations' at Yad Vashem in Israel, the same award granted to Oskar

Schindler. In 2010, Major Foley was named a British Hero of the Holocaust by the British Government.

Mr Austin said: "We have the memorial by the gate to Mary Stevens Park, but I would like to see a statue to Frank Foley so that people right across the Black Country can come and learn about him and our country's role in fighting for freedom, democracy and tolerance."



Frank Foley – saved people from the camps

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MEP is offering to help local charities

A NEW MEP is calling for charities and community organisations to get in touch so that he can help support them.

UKIP MEP for the West Midlands Bill Etheridge has pledged to use his time in office to help raise funds for local good causes.

The Sedgley councillor, who won his seat in Brusells last month, wants people to contact him to present their cases for receiving his backing. Contact Councillor Etheridge on 07894737884.

Choir and guest in proms event

A SUMMER proms concert will be raising the roof of Dudley Town Hall on Friday, June 27.

The Voices in Harmony choir will be performing at 7pm. The group, based in Cradley Heath, has raised more than £80,000 for charities since it was formed 15 years ago.

The special guest for the evening is acclaimed singer Jonathan Veira.

Tickets, priced £12, can be booked via www.vinchoir.org or by calling (01384) 635507.

Driver in fatal crash gets bail

A DRIVER arrested after a woman was killed when hit by a car at a bus stop has been bailed by police.

Former Stourbridge student Rebecca McManus, aged 21, of Harborne Road, Oldbury, died at the scene on Hagley Road West in Bearwood from multiple injuries. A 32-year-old man has been released on bail pending further inquiries.

A second woman, also aged 21, was injured.

Stall holders are urged to sign up

PEOPLE are being urged to run stalls at an Armed Forces Day event being held near Dudley.

The event at Himley Hall on June 29 will celebrate servicemen and women. Stall holders are being encouraged to apply if they want a stand at the event. Email marcomms.cexec@dudley.gov.uk or call (01384) 818136.

Dolphins singer

WELSH singer/songwriter Martyn Joseph, whose 1990s hits included *Dolphins Make Me Cry*, will be performing at Stourbridge Folk Club at Katie Fitzgerald's in Enville Street on Thursday, June 26.

Business zone plan to revive Waterfront

FOUR firms have inquired about relocating to a once-thriving business centre which is looking to attract new companies.

The Dudley Business Investment Zone was launched at the Waterfront in Brierley Hill in a bid to fill up empty office space and bring 1,600 jobs to the region.

Under the half-a-million pound scheme started in April, firms moving to the district get a two-year break in rates. Those companies already based at the site and looking to expand can get a discount.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, revealed four firms had enquired about relocating.

She said: "These are still very much early days for the Dudley Business Investment but we are really encouraged by the number of enquiries we have had."

"The new zone is now up and running and is part of our clear vision for bringing more business, investment and jobs into the area."

"There are huge economic benefits for the whole of Dudley borough by firms moving into the Waterfront with the scope for an additional 1,600 jobs."

Nurse joins national body

A HEALTH campaigner from Dudley has been appointed to a national body scrutinising patient care across the country.

Retired nurse Pam Bradbury has been serving as chairman of watchdog group Healthwatch Dudley.

She has now been appointed to the organisation's national committee representing NHS services in England and is one of six new committee members joining Healthwatch England.

A registered general nurse, she retired from the NHS last year.

In touch cheaper

TRAIN operator London Midland is changing its helpline number tomorrow to make it cheaper for customers to get in touch.

The new number will be 0344 811 0133.

A voicemail message will be played on the old number, 0844 811 0133.

The new mayor will be helped by her son



IT'S a family affair for Dudley's first citizen who will be accompanied on her ceremonial duties by her own son.

Councillor Margaret Aston has been invested as the new Mayor of Dudley after being sworn in at Dudley Council House.

It will be a busy year for the 66-year-old, who served as deputy mayor, but she said it will be even more special with her son by her

side. Fellow councillor Adam will join her as Mayor's consort.

"It is lovely that Adam will be with me and I'm so pleased he is able to be Mayor's Consort," said Mrs Aston, from The Ridgeway, Upper Gornal.

Charities

"I'm really looking forward to it as it is such an honour for me because I was born and raised in the area."

Mrs Aston has been married to

65-year-old husband Michael for 40 years.

She has served two spells as a Labour councillor, firstly for Sedgley and then as ward member for Castle and Priory since 2000.

Mrs Aston has named two charities close to her heart that she will help raise money for during her year in office.

One is rehabilitation charity Action Heart, after her husband suffered a heart attack, and Guide Dogs as she is an animal lover.

Councillor Aston takes over from Councillor Alan Finch who has been mayor of the borough for the past year.

Councillor Steve Walther is new Deputy Mayor of Dudley.

Councillor Walther, of Kingswinford, who is a ward councillor for St Thomas's, has left his cabinet member post to take up the civic role.

He said: "It is an honour and a privilege to become the Deputy Mayor and I'm looking forward to the year ahead."

Man is jailed for threat to kill with a longbow

A MAN burst through the doors of a crowded Cradley Heath pub armed with a bow and arrow and threatened to kill his father-in-law.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told the victim's nine-year-old son stood cowering in fear while Negib Hussain pulled back his bow in the Riddins Tavern. Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said 45-year-old Hussain stood a few feet from the man and told him "I want to kill you."

The pair had been involved in a feud and had not spoken for two years before the incident in September.

Hussain was jailed for 25 months on Monday.

Mr Phillips said: "Their relationship had started to deteriorate when Hussain had a child with the man's daughter several years earlier. Hussain wanted to put matters right. He approached him and tried to show him photographs of his granddaughter on his mobile phone but he was rebuffed."

"Hussain was told he didn't deserve to be a father, which left him upset."

Hussain returned to the pub in Mossvale Close a short time later carrying a longbow and a quiver filled with seven large, metal-tipped arrows. "He stood a few feet away from the man, pulled back the bow and said 'I want to kill you,'" added Mr Phillips.

The court was told Hussain was arrested when police raided his house and recovered the longbow.

Mr Timothy Pole, defending, said Hussain had been suffering from depression, adding: "He had no ambition to carry out his threat and simply wanted to make himself heard in a way that was plainly wrong."

Hussain, of Lawrence Lane, Cradley Heath, pleaded guilty to making a threat to kill and possessing a bladed article.

Musicians tune up for village festival



Sophie Round, Ian Allerton, Ian Kay and Mark Moran promote the RomStock music festival off St Kenelm's Road, Romsley

HUNDREDS of people are expected at a music festival near Halesowen which will feature some of the area's best up and coming talent.

The organisers of Romstock in Romsley have announced their biggest line-up of artists yet as the festival, organised by the village's parish council, celebrates its third year.

In total seven bands and five acoustic acts will perform between 1pm and 8pm this Saturday on the playing fields in St Kenelm's Road.

They include rock tributes act, Got the T-Shirt, Soul Mania and the Bravo Boys a rockabilly band as well as 14-year-old Sophie Round who is set to play a varied acoustic set.

Other bands playing include tribute acts to Elvis, Oasis and Crowded House. Mark Moran, one of the event's organisers said: "People are going to be surprised at the high quality of the acts playing at this year's event - it is one of our best line ups yet. It's nice to be able to show case new local talent

to people. I am hopeful that this will be our best year yet and will raise lots of money for a really good cause."

Romstock was originally started to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee but organisers were so impressed with the turnout of people they decided to make it an annual event.

Tickets for the event, costing £5 for adults and £2.50 for children, can be bought at the Spa Shop in Romsley or available on the day. All the proceeds go to youth community projects.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ED Miliband says he doesn't pay much attention to British newspapers. A reader points out that an anagram of Ed Miliband is "medi-blind."

□□□□□□□

If you believe everything you read, you may think that a couple of years from now the Government is to launch a new, simple state pension of about £150 a week for everyone. I think again. And ask yourself this: with the obvious exception of politicians, has anything simple ever come out of Whitehall? Of course not. The Civil Service does not do simple. It creates magnificent careers and builds mighty empires on complexity. Consider these two statements from the Government's own website: 1) The full new State Pension will be no less than £148.40 per week. 2) The amount you get can be higher or lower depending on your National Insurance record. So in others words, you will definitely get £148.40 but, er, you might not. It all depends on private pension funds being contracted out, or in, and other bewildering stuff. Far from being simple, the New State Pension is so damn complicated that they have set up a special phone-back service to give people a pension forecast. You ring them with your details and they call back a week later with the good (or bad) news. Except that they may not. My phone-back appointment was fixed between 8-10am one morning this week. Within nine minutes to go, at 9.51am a lady rang to say sorry, but the system had crashed. The next convenient date was June 23. I wonder how much of that £148.40 per week will go straight into the vast and ridiculous expensive Whitehall machine.

□□□□□□□

ALL this digital stuff is very clever but there are times when you can't beat newsprint. Newspaper articles on the D-Day 70th anniversary will be saved in millions of households and lovingly folded away with Granddad's medal ribbons and yellowing photos, in the hope that future generations will be interested. True, you can save such things on memory sticks and CDs. But technology changes and today's state-of-the-art gizmos will become about as useful as a floppy disc. Ink on paper is for ever.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Solar-panelled bus stops are world first

SOLAR powered timetables have been installed at a Black Country bus stop in what is believed to be a world first.

The two solar panels, fitted to the roof of the stop in Bromford Road, Oldbury, will power passenger updates on four "electronic paper" screens, similar to those found in devices like Kindles. The screens provide timetable and real-time information on bus services.

Solar energy is the latest to be used as Black Country transport authority Centro looks for energy efficient ways to provide information for passengers.

The scheme forms part of Centro's Government-funded Smart Network, Smarter Choices project which aims to cut carbon, boost the economy and provide jobs.

Tom Skidmore, senior project manager at Centro, said: "This is the next step in our trial of new passenger information systems and looking at the future of how we work. Using solar power can make a major difference in allowing us to provide digital information at bus stops where it has proved difficult to connect with conventional means.

"The fact that this represents another world first really demonstrates Centro's commitment to being at the forefront of both passenger information and carbon reduction."

The trial will run until the end of May and will form the basis of a study into how

by Adam Grinsell

solar power could be used to help fill in energy gaps at hard-to-reach stops and shelters.

Consultants who designed the system believe it to be the first in the world to link solar power and electronic paper to provide passenger information.

Gareth Tyler, intelligent transport systems consultant with partner company IBI Group, said: "As well as helping to reduce our carbon footprint, this technology opens the door for Centro to provide the next generation of public transport information direct to travellers at more of its bus stops, including those where it is difficult to install a main power supply."

E-paper passenger information screens were first trialled at a bus stop in Halesowen Street, Oldbury last year in what Birmingham consultants IBI Group claimed was the first of its kind in the world.

City tunnel closures outlined in roadshows

DETAILS of the closures of Birmingham's road tunnels will go on show at a series of roadshows.

The A38 St Chad's and Queensway tunnels will be closed to all traffic from 10pm on July 18 until 6am on September 1. Two weeks of overnight closures, 10pm-6am, will be needed before the start date.

Workers will be renewing the ventilation system, installing new security and communications systems, replacing electrics and refurbishing pumping stations and plant rooms.

They will also install traffic monitoring equipment, which will a quicker response to any accidents inside the tunnels.

Technology is being installed to allow for live traffic information on car radios to inform motorists as soon as accidents happen.

The roadshows aim to provide information on alternative routes and on discounted offers on public transport.

The events will be taking place on Tuesday in Victoria Square, on June 19 at Birmingham Children's Hospital, June 20 at Brindleyplace, June 24 at Cathedral Square Colmore Row, on July 2 in Centenary Square and July 14 in Victoria Square. More information can be found at www.brmntunnels.co.uk.

Ella is card sharp for final



Ella Wright with Top Trumps cards made of her classmates

IT seemed to be on the cards for a Black Country youngster to be Britain's official Top Trumps champion after she beat off 50,000 other hopefuls to get through to the final held in London on Saturday.

Ella Wright, a pupil at Oakham Primary School in Oldbury, headed off to iconic toy store Hamleys in London's Regent Street at the weekend.

Eye

The 10-year-old had been sharpening her skills as she made her way through the heats of the contest aimed at seven to 10-year-olds. It wasn't to be, for Ella but girl power was in evidence as for the first time there was a female winner, Charlie Worrell, 10, from Warrington.

But as the only West Midlands contestant in the final, Ella is already the official regional champion. All 12 finalists were given a goodie bag of prizes while the champion received a trophy and a special VIP ride on the London Eye.

Top Trumps was invented in 1977 and 51 million packs have been sold worldwide.



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'Shabby' station is given a revamp

A RAILWAY station described as 'one of the worst' in the Black Country has been given a £40,000 revamp.

Work has been completed at Dudley Port rail station to improve facilities following concerns raised by passengers.

Some passengers had complained that they felt unsafe in the station and demanded improvements.

The refurbishment of a shabby subway and tired-looking waiting shelters was part of a joint project by transport authority Centro and train operator London Midland.

Brighter

The work, carried out under the Transforming Rail Travel partnership, has also seen brighter lighting installed and overgrown vegetation cut back along the path between the new park and ride facility and the station itself.

Centro's lead member for rail and Metro, Councillor Roger Horton, said that this transformation was much needed.

"Dudley Port was one of the worst in the region in terms of visual appearance and passenger facilities," he said.

"Yet for a relatively small amount of money we have been able to make it cleaner, brighter and more comfortable."

by Peter Madeley

Ofsted found a number of our secondary schools were not providing a good education. This is deeply disappointing and we are working with these schools to support their improvement.

"Each of them has been monitored by Ofsted which has noted their progress and we anticipate most will be re-inspected over the next year and will be judged to be at least good, if not better. This will be a significant step in our journey to ensure every school in Dudley is a good school by the end of 2015."

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, criticised standards. He said: "It's no use blaming Ofsted or looking for other excuses. I've been saying for ages that standards in too many schools are just not good enough and we as a community have got to make sure they improve."

Sandwell schools — see page 15

THE performance of secondary schools across Dudley and the wider Black Country is below the national average, according to figures from education watchdog Ofsted.

Statistics released show all four authorities in the area fall below the national benchmark of 72 per cent of schools classed as either good or outstanding.

The figures, which relate to the watchdog's crucial rating of the overall effectiveness, painted a particularly depressing picture of secondary education in Dudley.

Just 45 per cent of secondary schools in the borough are top rated with the same number of schools deemed to require improvement. The figure represents a drop in standards of more than 20 per cent in five years.

Inadequate

At the time the statistics were compiled in December, ten per cent of Dudley's secondary schools were classed as inadequate, meaning inspectors highlighted serious weaknesses during their most recent visit.

Dudley's education chief Councillor Tim Crumpton said he expected the 'deeply disappointing' figures to improve. "The exam results achieved by Dudley secondary schools improved significantly in 2013 and were in-line with the national average. Despite this improvement, in the past 14 months

Cats and kittens in need of homes



Felines need families — Joy Tomkins and Jeanette Hill from the Halesowen Cats Protection with Lucie the cat

CATS and kittens in need of a good home were in the spotlight at a charity's open day on Saturday.

The Halesowen & District branch of Cats Protection have around 50 cats and kittens which have been rescued by volunteers who look after them in their own homes.

At the event at United Church in Hagley Road, Halesowen, visitors could see some of the cats and kittens available and get information about neutering and animal care.

The charity is also appealing for donations of food for the cats they care for.

Volunteer Jeanette Hill, of Oldbury, who has been working with Cats Protection for 12 years, said: "These events are really important as we have so many cats that we are looking after."

Homes

"We don't have a shelter, we have them in our own homes in spare bedrooms or wherever we have room."

"We hope people are able to offer a home to one of the cats."

Among the cats looking for a home is 14-month-old tortoiseshell Lucie. Mrs Hill said: "She had been rehomed once already but her owners were moving to a flat so had to give her back."

"She's really lovely and very affectionate."

To find out more about the Halesowen branch of Cats Protection or to volunteer for the charity call 0121 5444209.

NEWS in brief

Loom bands craze hits the Midlands

A NEW kids' craze for making bracelets out of rubber bands is spreading across the Black Country.

Toy retailers say they are seeing sales soar for loom band products. They are selling packs of hundreds of multi-coloured bands that children use on mini looms to weave, and twist into their own designs. Many of the bracelets are then sold for charity.

The creative playground pastime started in the United States but shops such as The Entertainer and The Works say it has caught on here after they were launched in the UK in November. Further products are being launched. "We are right in the middle of the loom craze now," said Stuart Grant, of The Entertainer.

Stay in touch with Caribbean island

RESIDENTS of Jamaican heritage from the Black Country are being urged to keep up-to-date with issues affecting the Caribbean island at this weekend's Jamaican Diaspora UK National Conference.

The event is on from Friday at the Centennial Centre in Birmingham followed by a service on Sunday at the New Testament Church of God, in Lozells. Advisors from the Jamaican Government will be attending.

Places can be booked for £35. Text 07931 216707 or email conference@jamai-candiasporauk.org

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ONE of the men at the centre of the Trojan Horse scandal, where certain schools in Birmingham are alleged to have been infiltrated by Muslim extremists, is an Australian called Sheikh Shady.

Of course, if true, the allegations are no laughing matter. But if you want to be taken seriously as an international preacher of hate, isn't it better to change your name to something that doesn't make you sound like an Eminem tribute act?

□□□□□

MORE words of wisdom from the ever lovable Katie Hopkins, who has decided to target Britain's old folk with her latest diatribe. Apparently, they get in her way, particularly when fumbling for their change in the supermarket, and says 'society has tried giving old people the hint that they are not wanted.'

"What's the point in living longer if all we're going to do is get in the way or sit in expensive nursing homes unable to recognise our own reflection in the mirror?", she asks, adding that she hopes to be 'bumped off' before she ever reaches old age.

Now how does the old saying go - prevention is better than cure?

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DRINKING red wine improves your memory, according to a new study by a university with a very long name in Berlin. The study added that it can improve short-term recall and increase concentration.

Meanwhile, drinking lots of beer... sorry, what was I saying? Oh yes, drinking red wine improves your memory.

□□□□□

Professor Sara Mills, a discourse researcher at Sheffield Hallam University, said pupils could instead refer to their teachers by their first names.

I don't know what a 'discourse researcher' is, but I would imagine it is something along the lines of a teacher who doesn't actually teach. Well not children, anyway.

But while the battle lines are now being drawn between the 'progressives' and the 'traditionalists', has nobody ever thought that the sensible course of action would be somewhere in the middle.

How about teachers tell the youngsters what their full names are, and then explain to them that they have to address them as 'Sir' or 'Miss' because the teachers are figures of authority, and the pupils are their subordinates?

Giving the children a lesson in the conventions they will have to adhere to in life outside the classroom is surely more useful than inviting them to take part in a guessing game about 'what Miss is really called'.



D-Day veteran of Gold beach, Ken Reynolds from Huddersfield, aged 90



The Princess Royal receives a salute from veterans during the Drumhead service on Southsea Common



The Princess Royal during the Drumhead service on Southsea Common in Hampshire



I don't suppose you get much time for reading," one MP said to me this week.

It turns out this particular Parliamentarian, speaking off the record, does that at the moment.

I've been recommended the Robert Harris novel, An Officer And A Spy, which the anonymous MP has managed to race through thanks to an unusually long prorogation of Parliament (if we were unkind we might say 'holiday').

When Her Majesty's official State Opening of Parliament contained a speech of merely 10 minutes there were claims that the Coalition Government had 'run out of steam'. But with an election next year the Coalition also cannot risk running out of time for any crucial legislation to get through both Houses.

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Labour MP Ian Austin has called for a referendum on Europe to be held before the next election.

His stance is at odds with his own party, which only considers a referendum necessary if there is a transfer of powers to Brussels. Like it or not, the rise of UKIP means the Tories and eventually Labour are going to have to grasp this nettle. David Cameron says he'll do it by the end of 2017 but only if he wins the next election.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin's plan, while not popular with either of the big parties, would mean whoever wins next year governs knowing whether or not they are going to have to withdraw Britain from the union. If the referendum is delayed, the next five years will mean the Government having to come up with a plan for each eventuality.

Well at least it would give them something to do.

□□□□□

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly has extended an olive branch to newly-elected Labour and UKIP councillors and offered to work with them. He's sent his contact details and even goes far enough to say what many Tories dare not: "UKIP are our political cousins."

UKIP loves to say how it takes votes off Labour as much as from the Tories, evidenced by its council seat gains in areas like Coseley.

The big picture shows it's the Tories who suffer most. Tony Blair won three terms because he appealed to the centre ground, as opposed to core Labour supporters. What Chris Kelly is doing now is talking about how he shares 'somewhere in the region of three-quarters of the views of the UKIP councillors elected'.

He will have to avoid appearing to dilute the things that attracted former Labour voters to him in the first place. But if the Tories want to neutralise UKIP the election will be fought not on the centre ground, but on common ground.

D-Day veterans in heroes' return

Veterans returned to the scene to mark 70 years since D-Day. DANIEL WAINWRIGHT reports

A SPITFIRE plane escorted a group of West Midlands war veterans back to Normandy for the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Meanwhile others who went to France were greeted as heroes by schoolchildren who wanted to pose for pictures with them.

Ken Reynolds, aged 90, from Huddersfield, Geoff Ensor, 90, of Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, 88-year-old Ron Davies from Walsall and Frank Corbett from Bloxwich were part of a group of 31 people flown into Normandy in 10 private jets organised by the millionaire advertising agency boss Trevor Beattie.

And as a special surprise the veterans were accompanied part of the way by a Spitfire.

Milestone

Funds were raised through Birmingham-born Mr Beattie's charity, the Jack and Ada Beattie Foundation.

Working with comedian Eddie Izzard, Mr Beattie helped to raise funds to make sure veterans could make the trip back for the milestone occasion.

Another group of six West Midlands war veterans also travelled over with a group from the ACE Academy in Tipton.

Joe Davies, a 91-year-old former police superintendent from Compton, served with the Royal Army Service Corps.

He spent last Thursday in Arranches where children ran up to veterans and asked to kiss them on the cheek.



The Prince of Wales meets Normandy veterans of the Glider Pilot Regiment at Pegasus Bridge, Normandy

He said: "It's very emotional. It is a fantastic atmosphere and I've never seen anything like it."

"There are so many people who have wanted to take photographs with us.

"Children have been coming up to say 'thank you very much'. We're going to Caen where we will lay wreaths."

"It is our privilege and honour to be here."

Others with Mr Davies were Arthur Jones, aged 88 from Pendeford, 91-year-old Stanley Caldicott, from Warley, who served with the RAF, and Dennis Moodie, also 91 and from Lichfield, who

was a Royal Artillery wireless operator with the 94th field regiment and Dennis Thompson, aged 88 and from Muxton in Telford.

The 70th anniversary of D-Day proved the last formal event for the Normandy Veterans Association.

On Thursday, the Princess Royal led tributes to the heroes who took part and the many who died in the landings in 1944.

Anne, commodore in chief of the Royal Navy in the Portsmouth area, attended a drumhead service on Southsea Common, Portsmouth, along with veterans and serving members of the armed forces. It included a demonstration of a beach assault by British Marines and their Dutch counterparts.

Following a rendition of the Last Post, a silence was held to remember those who died in the landings and the service concluded with the National Anthem.

Matthew Guymer, 90, a former Mayor of Stafford, who served as a major with the 11th Hussars Prince Albert's Own, said: "I think it's the last time I will be able to come down at my age. I am very proud and I am delighted to have the opportunity to meet the other veterans."

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Boycott Malta call over birds slaughter

THERE has been a lot of press recently regarding the slaughter of migrating birds as they try to rest on the island of Malta on their journey from Africa to Europe, many destined for the British Isles.

These so-called Maltese 'sportsmen' shoot hundreds of thousands of birds every year, from tiny warblers to large birds of prey. The naturalist Chris Packham recently tried to film the slaughter to publicize it, but was arrested by Maltese police.

It seems to me the only way to stop this murder is to boycott Malta as a holiday des-

tination. Just don't go there. Tourism is the major industry on Malta. Let's hit them where it hurts until they stop. Bizarrely they can legally shoot the fast disappearing Turtle Dove. Once a common resident in the UK it is now very scarce and declining rapidly. Anyone who has heard the purring call of this completely harmless bird will understand why it should not be shot for fun. What is it with people who hunt and shoot harmless wildlife that cannot fight back?

R SOUTHLAND
Patttingham

Thank you for helping children

THE 465 people in the West Midlands who give up their time to support The Children's Society's vital work to fight childhood poverty and neglect are part of a movement of almost 11,000 amazing volunteers across the country.

Last week marked the 30th anniversary of Volunteers' Week and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to every individual in the West Midlands who volunteers their time, energy and skills. Volunteers have been absolutely integral to the work of The Children's Society since we started over 130 years ago.

Thousands of dedicated fundraising volunteers have raised more than £156 million to support our work in the last three decades. Our retail volunteers have enabled us to build a network of almost 100 charity shop and hundreds of volunteers helped us change the lives of more than 100,000 of the country's most vulnerable children and young people.

MATTHEW REED
Chief Executive
The Children's Society

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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EU leaders aim to subjugate Britain

DURING recent weeks, owing to certain reports in the media, I have found myself contemplating the time that the then Prime Minister Edward Heath took us boldly into what the majority of us looked upon as a trading agreement with the rest of Europe.

I wonder if anyone then had ever envisaged a time when Frau Merkel and her French cronies would demand that the UK should alter its laws (civil and tax) in order to fit in with their interpretation of what our continued membership of the EU should be.

How dare they have the effrontery to make any demands on us at all. It appears to me that these demands have less to do with the furtherance of

Repeated TV rubbish

WHY are we having so many repeats on TV? The BBC, licence fee £150 a year, keep repeating 'Flog It', and then there are the repeats which they have sold to Freeview channels, who get their income from adverts, without incurring costs to actually produce new programmes.

The Beeb also repeat 'Homes under the Hammer' with auctions going back to 2005. On Channel 46, Freeview, 'The Chase' showed the Queen's last birthday as 84; she is 88. I must know all the answers to Who Wants to be a Millionaire.

Auntie also screened 'I love 1973'.

Presenter Noddy Holder said it was nearly 30 years ago, so this repeat is over 10 years old. I thought broadcasters had regulators, maybe they are too busy watching repeats.

R W WHITE
Wigmore

Dogs rescued from death

I WOULD like to say thank you to everyone who donated food, blankets, etc, and financial support to my recent appeal to help dogs in Romania.

The charity has collected everything that was donated and it will be in Romania now. Your donations are being given to a lady and her daughter who have in their home almost 100 dogs from the killing pounds.

Our appeal for food, blankets, bedding and financial support for vet's bills is always appreciated.

MARION FISHER
Dudley Animal Rescue

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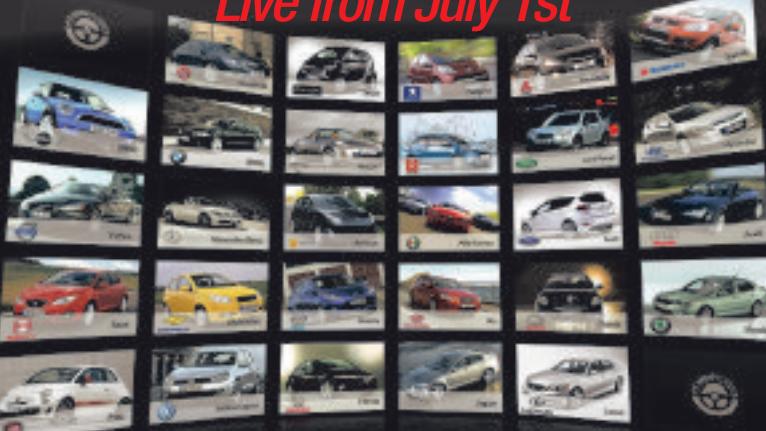
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Celebrations with belly dance group

PENN TG

MRS Ursula McInnes welcomed everyone to the 55th birthday celebrations.

Annie Woods was presented with the Lanfear Trophy for her work in sending birthday and get well cards to members throughout the year. They are very much appreciated.

Platters of food were arranged at each table with cupcakes and drinks to complete the buffet, which was most enjoyable. The entertainment was the Karen Price Dance Group of Belly dancers who were dressed in exotic costumes and performed rhythmic dances.

The Gardening Group visited Waterdale Garden in Compton, a lovely unusual garden with many different plants and shrubs and paths leading to a grotto lined with shell pictures. The coffee and cakes were excellent.

Social Studies speaker was Derek Wharton with the subject of "Puppets from around the World". From a young child, he and his sister had a puppet theatre and made up stories and put on concerts in their back garden for friends.

They had been on television in the Tingha & Tucker children's programme and from then on, Mr Wharton had collected puppets, some he had made himself and others bought from around the world as he travelled and went on cruises.

On June 25, Iain Watkins will give a talk on the Grand Theatre past & present.

Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road at 7.15pm.

By taking part in Mr Sturdy's quiz, a donation was raised for Cancer Research.

My Time Over Fifties meets on the fourth

Wednesday of the month in the Amblecote

Ernest and Mary under the spotlight

KINGSWINFORD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT the June club welcomed back the Stourbridge historian Roy Peacock.

He told the meeting of the achievements and donations of Ernest Stevens and his wife Mary.

Ernest was born in Lye of humble beginnings but by his determination and salesmanship he became a wealthy manufacturer of cookware. From iron to enamelled saucepans the 'Judge' brand became famous worldwide.

He and his wife were Methodists and through their generosity gave the people of Stourbridge the parks in Quarry Bank, Wollaston and of course Mary Stevens park in Stourbridge.

He provided the Mary Stevens Maternity Home and the Amblecote Memorial Sports ground.

The Society meets at the Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, on the first Monday in the month at 7.30pm.

The next meeting is on July 7 when Max Clifford will be telling about 'The Development of the Nailer's Cottage'.

New members and visitors are always welcome, tea and biscuits are provided after the meeting.

New club hears pros and cons of GM crops

WULFRUNIAN LADIES WI

WULFRUNIAN Ladies WI is a new group, formed in March of 2013 and based at the Old Wulfrunians Club in Castlecroft.

At the last monthly meeting, the speaker was George Lee, who talked about the pros and cons of GM crops. Members heard that GM growing is banned in Europe but that certain animal feeds contain GM soya.

George explained that the biggest problem we face are worldwide shortages of food and that conventional farming methods overuse fertilisers which wash into soil, and organic growers produce significantly less than we need which ultimately will result in food shortages.

Knitting

It was an interesting and thought provoking talk.

On a much lighter note, the club will be having a belly dancing demonstration at its next meeting as well as a talk about knitting for newborns.

Wulfrunian Ladies WI meet once a month at Old Wulfrunians Social Club.

Anyone interested in joining is asked to email wulfrunianladies@outlook.com or call Amy on 07974572689.

See and hear quiz challenge

MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

THE May meeting began with the See and Hear quiz masterminded by Ray Sturdy.

The group was presented with both visual and audio questions which taxed their brains, brought back memories, made them laugh and also feel sad at the passing of time.

By taking part in Mr Sturdy's quiz, a donation was raised for Cancer Research.

My Time Over Fifties meets on the fourth

Wednesday of the month in the Amblecote

Room at Stourbridge Town Hall at 2pm, with interesting speakers, a cup of tea and a chat.

The next meeting is on June 18, which will be the Annual General Meeting, followed by tea and homemade cake.

For further information phone Graham on 01384 393483 or Audrey on 01384 864223.

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Chief in plea to public over firefighters' strike

FIRE chiefs in the West Midlands say they will be implementing 'tried and tested' contingency arrangements to keep the region as safe as possible when firefighters go on strike today.

Firefighters across the country will stage their latest 24-hour walkout today from 9am. A seven-hour strike is also planned to run from 10am to 5pm on Saturday, June 21.

The action is being taken because of a national pensions dispute between the Fire Brigades Union and the Government.

Paul Burnham, area commander with WMFS, said: "Although this is the first 24-hour strike in the national dispute, we'll be implementing our tried and tested contingency arrangements to keep the West Midlands as safe as possible."

Suspended

"Public safety is central to our plans, and 999 calls will still be answered as normal. However, it won't be 'business as usual', as we'll be focusing all of our efforts on responding to emergencies using operational staff who aren't striking."

"Our daily prevention, education and community work will have to be suspended for the duration of the strike."

He added: "Of course, Thursday evening sees the start of the World Cup when lots of families and friends will be tuning in for the Brazil versus Croatia game."

"If you're travelling before or after the match, please don't drink-drive."

"I'd like to make a direct appeal to pubs and entertainment venues hosting World Cup-related events to put staff and customer safety at the top of their list."

The commander added: "Throughout the World Cup we're urging people to 'play it safe' and to keep an eye on safety as well as the ball."

Stars out at Merry Hill



He's behind you — Peter Andre's attraction is no mystery at Merry Hill

PETER Andre and Towie star Amy Childs pulled in the crowds when they appeared at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Hundreds of fans queued for the chance to get a glimpse of Australian heartthrob Andre as he signed copies of his new album.

He wasn't the only famous face at the shopping mall, with Amy Childs

from The Only Way Is Essex also making an appearance to advertise her new clothing range. It was all part of a publicity drive by new owners of the shopping centre Intu.

Andre, 41, promoting his swing music album Big Night and new fragrance range Forever, chatted and waved to the crowd as well as posing for pictures with fans.

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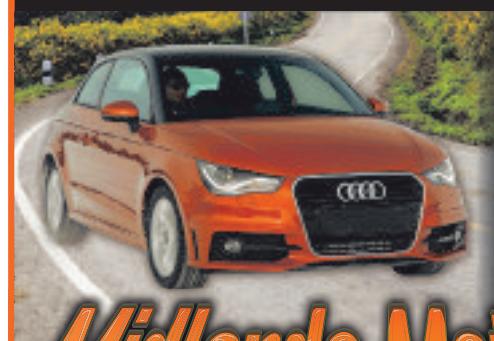
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Youngsters at Livingston Academy's 1996 Christmas show



Debbie with Natalie Powers 20 years ago



From left, Abby Wall, Samantha Plant, Lauren Downing, about 19 years ago



Georgina with Saskia Lockey, who now works in musicals



From left, Georgina, Alison Truelove and Debbie Morgan



Founders Georgina and Debbie with students Cara Fraser, aged 17 from Willenhall, and Georgia Curtis, 17 from Walsall

Livingston ladies of dance mark 25 years

A DANCE and drama academy which has produced performers who have appeared on stages across the world is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The Livingston Academy, which teaches dance, music and drama, was set up by dance teachers Debbie Morgan and Georgina Rowley in 1988.

Established in Darlaston, the academy moved to its current home on Holmehead Road in Wednesbury in 1996, after increasing business led to a need for new premises.

Around 350 people, mainly youngsters but also some adults, are currently on the books at the academy, but the number of people who have been through the doors since it was set up cannot be estimated.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Adam Grinsell

Former students have performed around the world – with one former pupil currently appearing in Cats in London's West End.

Competitions

Others have gone on to teach dance and drama or set up their own academies.

Debbie said: "We teach ballet, tap, modern, jazz, all the theatre subjects – singing, speech, drama and all-round performance. The majority of people who come here are local to the area, but we have students from quite far away as well – we've had girls from as far as Nottingham come to us, so some really do travel."

The 25th anniversary was actually last year, when the students began rehearsing for a new show *Magical Memories*.

The show was put on at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock last month, with a host of invited guests including former students.

Debbie added: "That's been the main celebratory thing really, we always do dance competitions, and we held a dance festival at Christmas, but the show in April rounded it off."

"Our aim when we started out was always to have everything that children need under one roof, everything they need to do the theatre arts, and we have achieved that."

If anyone would like to inquire about the Academy, call Debbie on 07976 880608, or see www.livingstonacademy.co.uk

Dancer Elliss Morgan in a Livingston Academy show, called *Don't Stop Believing*, in 2012 at Cannock's Prince of Wales

Ann's smile puts her in top gear

Denture Clinic

ADVERTISEMENT

WILLENHALL'S Ann Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

A young-at-heart 75-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment,"

she recalls. Recently she was fitted with implant-retained dentures, inspired by a newspaper article on Steven Burchell's work at the Denture Clinic.

She says: "You don't realise how having bad teeth can affect you until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed. I could not have wished for better treatment. My care was first class and Steven has become like family to us."

Suction solution is this the answer for you?

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley, and other clinics across the region, says the invention has the potential to resolve all-too-common denture stability issues.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a frightening pace.

"In recent times we have seen, what I can describe as strident steps forward, with implant-retained over-dentures, 'teeth-in-a-day' implant procedures and suction solution dentures, all coming into main-stream dentistry.

"We also have clever injection moulding technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and our clinical solutions have never been so appealing.

"Implant dentistry as a resolve for stabilisation issues



The Ultra Suction system is available for both top and lower dentures, enables the construction of a plateless top denture and can be successfully used in reline work

qualities without the invasive clinical procedures required for implant work. We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another 'tool' in our commitment to ever-try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations.

"Lower dentures can often be troublesome as stability is compromised by shrinking gums and bone erosion – it's all part of the ageing process. Ill-fitting dentures create painful friction problems on gums and not least, be a source of compromised chewing and embarrassment."

Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste."

Typically, Denture Clinic patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, "but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," says Steven. "Can dentures look glamorous? Emphatically, yes – we have taken years off the appearance of some of our patients."

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Oh yummy, mummy can bag £500 spree

COMPETITION

THERE is a chance to win a £500 family shopping spree with Mummy Mornings at Merry Hill shopping centre at Brierley Hill.

The popular Mummy Mornings sessions are set for a monster takeover on June 24 with the biggest bash yet!

Thought to be the largest active network of parents in the Midlands, Mummy Mornings are a firm favourite with local families and a key event in Merry Hill's weekly calendar.

Taking place every Tuesday from 10am in Eat Central, for six years they've seen families flock to the centre for a variety of free weekly-themed activities and games to entertain their little ones.

Vibrant

It's now evolved to become a vibrant community in its own right, bringing together parents from across the region for friendship, support, and fun every week.

The biggest ever Mummy Morning – dubbed Monster Mummy Morning – will feature a whole host of activities and goodies for kids and grown-ups alike.

Children's favourite Peppa Pig will be making a special appearance during the morning, which will also be jam-packed with freebies, music, balloon models, crafts, games and other activities, as well as free lunch offers for those who attend.

Creative kids can try their hands at making bracelets for Help Harry



Alex Phillips, Ellie-Jean Phillips, Keeley Musgrove and Aaron Musgrove

Help Others – the charity Merry Hill continues to support throughout 2014 at a dedicated craft zone, and there'll be lots of stalls for mum (and dad!) to browse.

And, to celebrate what is sure to be the best Mummy Mornings yet, Merry Hill is offering one family the chance to win a £500 shopping spree in-centre.

The Monster Mummy Morning extravaganza will take place at the Copthorne Hotel at Merry Hill, and events will run from 10am until 2pm. Be sure to save the date, it promises to be a monster of a day!

For more information visit [https://intu.co.uk/merryhill](http://intu.co.uk/merryhill)



HOW TO ENTER

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 B. Every Tuesday
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Family saga from the corner shop

BOOKS

JOURNALIST and author Sathnam Sanghera draws upon his years in Wolverhampton for his first novel.

Marriage Material (Windmill Books, paperback, £8.99) is a richly comic and poignant novel about the strength of family bonds, a kind of fictional sequel to his autobiographical debut **The Boy with the Topknot: A Memoir of Love, Secrets and Lies** in Wolverhampton.

The Times columnist and former Wolverhampton Grammar School boy in that book revisited his 1980s Punjabi family upbringing in the Black Country.

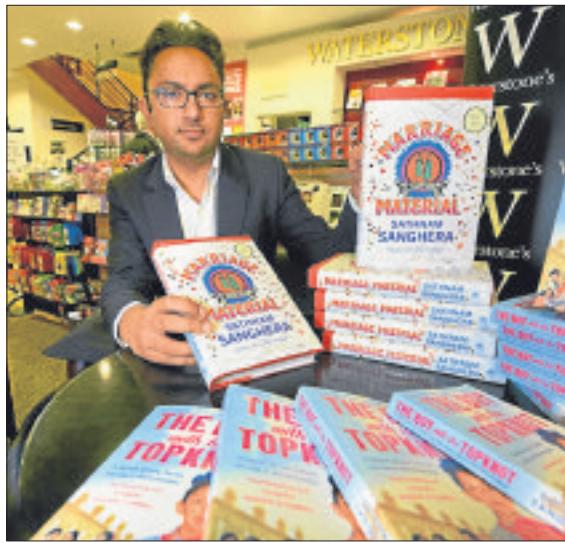
In **Marriage Material** our protagonist Arjan Banga revisits Wolverhampton when his father dies suddenly. The young Sikh finds himself torn between his own life in London and family duty when his widowed mother insists on keeping their corner shop open.

Recently Book of the Week on BBC Radio 4, **An Englishman Aboard** (Penguin, paperback, £9.99) sees author Charles Timoney row through the heart of France after a Champagne-fuelled bet that he'll travel the entire length of the River Seine, from source to sea, in his self-built boat.

It is a charming and amusing voyage that will delight all Francophiles.

A couple's idyllic artistic life in North Africa comes to a shattering halt when a moment of carelessness leads to the disappearance of their three-year-old son in **The Boy That Never Was** (Penguin Michael Joseph, hardback, £12.99). Then years later, having moved to Ireland to build a new life, the father catches a glimpse of his son on Dublin's busy O'Connell street.

The author Karen Perry is actually an amalgam of Irish writers Paul



Sathnam Sanghera at a book signing in Waterstones, Wolverhampton

Perry and Karen Gillece. Together they have created a gripping tale.

The latest case for Christopher Fowler's misfit crimebusters of the Metropolitan Police's Peculiar Crimes Unit involves bodysnatchers, a gruesome legend, a secret society and the disappearance of the ravens from the Tower of London.

Bryant & May and The Bleeding Heart (Bantam Press, hardback, £16.99) is the 11th case for the quirky duo but newcomers to the series can dive in here with an enjoyable fanciful

and darkly comic yarn with the matchless pair.

Maternal love, forbidden desire and a country mansion's secrets combine in John Boyne's deliciously creepy ghost story **This House is Haunted** (Black Swan, paperback, £7.99). The author of **The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas** enters Susan Hill territory but puts a spin on such familiar ingredients as a governess, vulnerable children and mysterious employer (think *Turn of the Screw* and *Jane Eyre*).

Leon Burakowski

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Fund's £4,600 hospice boost

A HOSPICE has received a donation of more than £4,600 which will be used to buy privacy screens for patients.

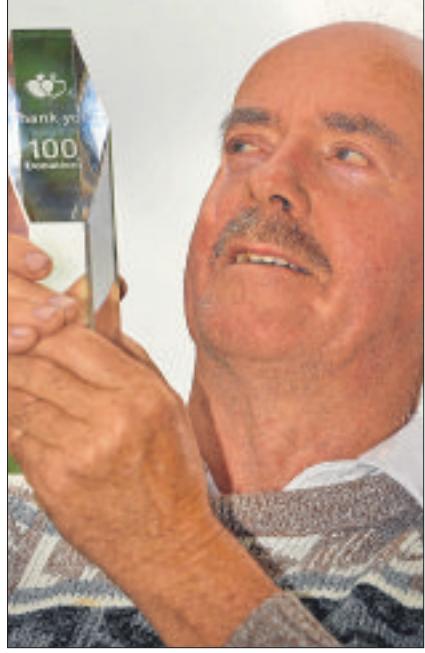
Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice has received the cash boost from the Hospital Saturday Fund, which supports medical charities. The total amount of the donation is £4,638.

Trustee for the fund John Randel visited the hospice, in Hagley Road, to meet with the charity's chief executive Stevan Jackson.

Mr Jackson said: "The hospice is extremely delighted to receive this generous donation which will help improve patient privacy and preserve dignity, two fundamentals of hospice care."

The hospice provides palliative care, symptom control and therapy for people living with life limiting illnesses as well as providing dedicated support for their families and carers.

Still scared of needle after 100 donations



Prolific blood donor Joe Egan, 63, is still squeamish

HE admits to still being scared of needles but that has never stopped Joe Egan donating blood —105 times to be exact.

The parcel sorter from West Bromwich was given an engraved glass award for reaching 100 donations at a ceremony held by the NHS Blood and Transplant service at Villa Park.

But Mr Egan, aged 63, says he still has to look away when providing blood from his arm. "You'd have thought I'd be okay with it by now, but I still have to look away," said Mr Egan, who lives in Kelvin Way.

"It never stops me, though. Instead, I think about the good I am doing for someone who desperately needs something I have plenty of."

"Why wouldn't someone not want to take the opportunity to save someone's life? I think it's wonderful."

Mr Egan was born and grew up in Castlerea in County Roscommon in Ireland. But he struggled to find employment and came over to England to live and work in Dudley Port. Now he works for parcel delivery firm Yodel in Wednesbury.

Store helps with care home outings

A SUPERMARKET has donated almost £500 to a care home in the Sedgley. Waitrose, off Penn Road in Wolverhampton, donates £1,000 per month to the community and this is split between three causes. Last month it selected The Firs Residential Care in Gospel End for a £470 cheque.

It will be used to towards a trip to a seaside resort and a narrow boat trip planned for July. Residents were invited to Waitrose to collect the cheque and were treated to tea, coffee and biscuits in its coffee shop.

The Firs is a 47-bed home that caters for the needs of the elderly residents and residents with disabilities from Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, mental health, physical disability and learning disability.

Activities co-ordinator Mandy Rogers said: "This money is immensely important. We care for people with dementia and it is important that they get out and about and back into society. We thank Waitrose for helping us."

Married mother-of-three had sex with a schoolboy

A MOTHER-of-three entered into a sexual relationship with a teenage schoolboy and has since given birth to his child, a court was told.

Helen Cartwright initially embarked on a friendship with the 15-year-old but Wolverhampton Crown Court was told their liaisons, initially involving 'hugging and kissing', became more intimate in May last year. Cartwright had sex with the youth in her marital bed at her home on the Russells Hall estate in Dudley.

Cartwright, of Langstone Road, pleaded guilty to sexual activity with

a child under the age of 16. The court heard the 42-year-old has since continued her relationship with the boy and is now the mother of their five-month old baby.

Cartwright was sentenced to two years in prison suspended for two years, with two-year supervision order.

She was placed on the Sex Offenders Register for 10 years.

The defendant, who had lived with her husband and children, was warned by a judge that she was fortunate to escape immediate custody.

Ms Sati Ruck, prosecuting, told the court: "It was the boy who instigated

the sexual relationship when he slept with the defendant in her own bed."

Cartwright was arrested after Social Services were contacted and the matter was reported to the police. During a police interview she admitted knowing the boy was underage.

"Her husband suffered a stroke five years ago which has left him bedridden," continued Ms Ruck.

Ms Sharonjit Bahia, defending, said: "There are exceptional mitigating factors. She has had much to cope with in her family life. At the time of the incident the complainant was eight weeks away from his 16th birthday. Their relationship is now considered legal."



Helen Cartwright, 42

999 call over an ice cream

ONE woman took her dismay over a lack of sprinkles on her ice cream a step too far by dialling 999 to report the 'crime'.

West Midlands Police revealed the one minute emergency phone call made last week in which the woman tells the operator that an ice cream man only put sprinkles on one side of her ice cream. She says: "The person has basically given me an ice cream, put bits on one side and none on the other." She goes on to say that she asked for her money back but he refused.

The patient operator tells the woman that she needs to speak to trading standards officials or the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Chief Superintendent Jim Andronov said the 999 number was for emergencies only. He added: "We do not want to discourage people from contacting the police so for any other reason call 101."

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THE family of former Albion striker Jeff Astle are supporting the campaign for a Parliamentary inquiry into concussion in sport. His widow Laraine and daughters Dawn and Claire were in Westminster on Monday for the discussion of a new cross-party report entitled Concussion Can Kill, with Labour MP Chris Bryant in attendance.

Mr Bryant told them: "If only 0.7 per cent of the transfer money that is spent on footballers every year was devoted to research, it would make a dramatic difference and families such as yours might not have to face this again."

Green light for fast food and a fountain

A MULTI-MILLION pound development that will include two new fast food restaurants, creating more than 100 jobs, has been given the green light by councillors.

McDonald's and KFC will build new outlets near Stourbridge town centre after the proposals were granted planning permission by members of Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday.

The drive-thru branches will be built on land off Mill Race Lane occupied by the Hayes factory before it was demolished four years ago.

Under the plan by developer Jumbuk Limited, three units would be built in total. An occupier for the third unit has yet to be found.

Developers revealed the scheme hopes to create at least 65 full and part-time jobs at McDonald's and a further 40 positions at KFC.

Return

The scheme would see the burger chain's return to the town for the first time since it closed its branch in the High Street in 2008 after 20 years.

It comes as building work is well under way to create a new Premier Inn hotel and Brewers Fayre restaurant in nearby Birmingham Street, where around 65 jobs are expected to be created.

The nearest McDonald's branches to Stourbridge are currently in Kingswinford, Merry Hill and Lye while KFC's closest branch is at Amblecote.

The application submitted by Jumbuk says: "The proposals are for a high quality development which would contribute to the physical, environmental, economic and social renewal of the area and enhance this gateway to the town centre. Furthermore it would im-

Boss expecting progress at senior schools

SANDWELL'S education boss says secondary schools in the borough are working hard to improve standards, after it was revealed almost half were performing below the national average.

Improvements have been made at primary schools in the borough, said Councillor Simon Hackett. He expects to see similar progress at secondary schools.

Figures released by Ofsted show that only 54 per cent of schools in Sandwell hit the education watchdog's national benchmark of 72 per cent of schools rated good or outstanding.

But the statistics also showed Sandwell did not

prove the appearance of the ring road."

Eighty-five neighbouring residents and businesses were consulted on the scheme and two letters of objection were lodged. Concerns about access and a potential increase in rubbish at the site were raised.

A report by case officer Richard Stevenson said: "The proposed development is considered to be acceptable in principle and allows the redevelopment of a vacant site."

Meanwhile, councillors also decided to restore an historic fountain in Dudley town centre as part of the regeneration plans, which also include a £6.7m revamp of the market place.

Councillors have agreed to major works to renovate the Grade II* listed Earl of Dudley fountain.

Water will once more flow from the 19th Century fountain in High Street under restoration plans which won unanimous backing.

Plans are also in the pipeline to improve Dudley bus station following the launch of talks between regional transport bosses Centro and Dudley Council on future work to the 27-year-old station. The council wants to see the creation of a modern station like in Stourbridge.

Furthermore it would im-

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Talks on care centre plans

TALKS are taking place to appoint a firm to run a new urgent care centre which will be built at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

It will open in April next year and treat more than 160,000 patients a year, health chiefs have confirmed.

The new centre will replace the existing walk-in centre at Holly Hall Clinic, Stourbridge Road, Dudley.

It would work alongside the hospital's accident and emergency department and be available 24 hours, seven days a week.

Health bosses say the move will help to reduce pressure on A&E as the centre could be used by the thousands of non-urgent patients who currently turn up at the department.

THREE men have been jailed after they launched a vicious attack that saw their victim hit over the head with a shovel.

Robert Rolls was left unconscious following the 'sustained assault' on Hagley Road, Stourbridge, during the early hours of June 30. Ryan Claridge, Mark Flavell and Benjamin Payne were all jailed after each admitting a count of attempted grievous bodily harm.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard 21-year-old Claridge, of Barnett Lane, Kingswinford, and

Payne, 20, of Chapel Street, Brierley Hill, were making their way along Hagley Road at around 4.40am when a dispute occurred with Mr Rolls, who had also been drinking.

Mr Rolls had started the violence by punching Claridge in the face. Claridge and Payne followed him and Flavell, 44, of Albert Street, Pensnett, pulled up in his van and got a spade out of the back. Flavell had been in the vehicle earlier when Mr Rolls cracked the windscreen and was on his way home when he saw Mr Rolls arguing with Claridge and Payne.

Mr Rolls was knocked to the floor and Flavell

struck him twice on the legs with the shovel. He was kicked by all three. Payne handed Claridge the shovel and he struck Mr Rolls on the head with it three times. Mr Rolls suffered swelling.

Claridge was given 30 months and Flavell 36 months. Payne, who did not plead guilty as early as the others, received 38 months at a young offenders institute.

Mr Simon Williams, defending Flavell, said his client was 'remorseful'. Mr Christopher Loach, defending Claridge, said his client 'apologised unreservedly'. Miss Laura Culley, defending Payne, said her client had stopped drinking.

Car smash at banqueting hall

A CAR smashed through the wall of a banqueting suite, narrowly missing a bus stop.

The crash happened at 5.30pm on Saturday, when the blue Vauxhall Astra careered through the boundary wall outside The Regis hall in Old Hill, just two feet away from a bus stop.

The car then came to rest on the lawn of the club. A pile of bricks from the damaged wall could be seen on the grass next to the car.

A woman suffered minor injuries in the smash on Reddall Hill Road, and was treated at the scene by paramedics from West Midlands Ambulance Service. Two fire engines, one from Cradley Heath station and the other from Brierley Hill, were called to the incident and made the car safe. No-one was trapped in the vehicle.

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Family pay tribute to accident victim



Timothy Pearson who died in a crash on St Peter's Road

A YOUNG man killed in a crash in the Black Country has been named as 23-year-old Timothy Pearson.

Mr Pearson, from Quarry Bank, was the passenger in a Nissan Skyline which hit a garden wall in St Peter's Road, Netherton, Dudley, just before 9.30pm on Tuesday, June 3.

He died at the scene, while the 28-year-old driver was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Mr Pearson's family today paid tribute to him.

In a statement, they said: "What can we say about Tim? He was cheeky, sarcastic, loyal, always smiling, always singing and dancing, always had a smile on his face no matter what.

"He was the best son, brother, uncle, grandson, cousin and friend anyone could ask for.

"The 23 years and ten and a half months he was with us were the best of our lives.

"The pain we are feeling now will never leave us, nor our memories of Tim. He was full of energy, he couldn't keep still but we loved every annoying thing about him."

Police are still seeking witnesses. Call them on 101.

Paddy's salsa act is just not hot enough

SHE has been swung, flung, thrown and twirled around stage, but it was not enough.

Sensational salsa dancing granny, 79-year-old Sarah 'Paddy' Jones even came back from a rib injury to take her place in the Britain's Got Talent final on Saturday night.

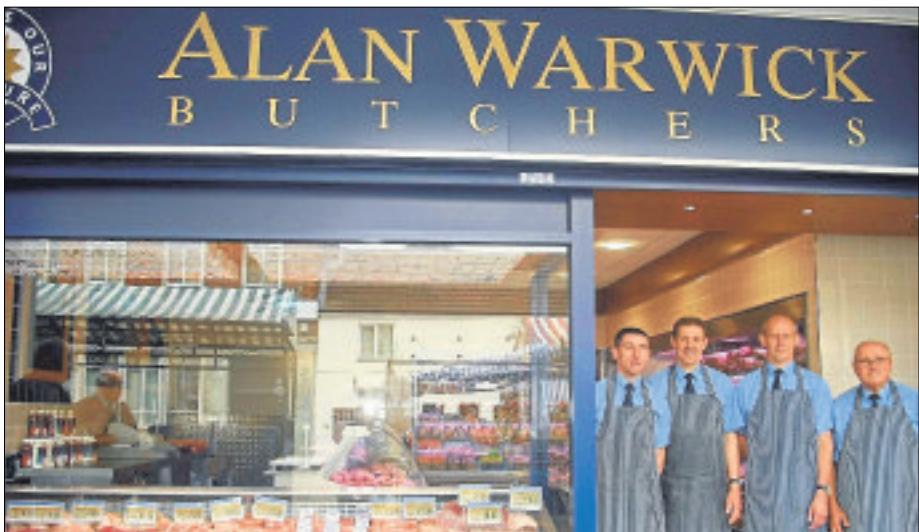
But the Stourbridge septuagenarian's routine, with partner Nico Espinosa, was not enough to see them crowned champions in the public vote.

The winners on the night were all-male classical singing group Collabro, who wowed viewers with their rendition of Stars from Les Miserables. They have landed themselves a slot in the Royal Variety Performance, along with £250,000 prize money.

Although they got a standing ovation, Paddy and Nico missed out on a place in the top three, with the other two spots going to second-placed opera singer Lucy Kay and bookies' favourites rap duo Bars and Melody.

Shops that meat high standards

Some of the offers on display at the shop in Wednesfield



From left to right, Adam, Eddie, Andy and Paul, who all work at the Wednesfield branch of Alan Warwick butchers



ALAN Warwick Butchers has long been established on high streets throughout the Midlands for 30 years.

The company has seen many changes to shopping trends throughout the years, and has come to realise that shoppers have become more savvy, especially in the light of recent meat scandals.

Their staff strive to offer the whole shopping experience – good service, quality products, competitive prices and smart, presentable shops. They hope as well to bring a certain amount of friendly expertise which might not be found at supermarkets.

Refurbished

A spokesman for the well-established family firm said: "At Alan Warwick we started a refurbishment plan, five years ago.

"Since then we have refurbished seven of our 12 shops, and we intend to refurbish all of our shops by 2016."

He explained that the latest two shops, in Great Bridge and Bloxwich, have both been given a

The Bloxwich premises which was given a five-star rating five-star rating from environmental health chiefs.

"This cements our future in the high street, and proves that there is still life left in the high street. But these days you have got to raise your game, as shoppers expect better, and better, and better.

"Over the last five years Alan

Warwick shops have gone from strength to strength by giving our customers quality meat at discount prices. We provide good service and staff who know what they are talking about, and can give the customer the right advice when needed – something supermarkets cannot match."

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Bearwood, Bearwood Road B66 4BH

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Hooligans hand in passports

FOOTBALL troublemakers have been grounded by West Midlands Police after their passports were seized to stop them from getting to the World Cup in Brazil.

Letters went out last month from West Midlands Police's specialist Football Unit asking 166 people subject to Football Banning Orders in the region to hand over their travel documents.

Banning Orders prevent individuals convicted of football-related offences from attending matches or travelling to overseas tournaments.

Police say all but two of the recipients adhered to the conditions of their banning order and gave up passports to officers at West Midlands police stations between June 2 and 3.

A LEADING charity has reported a surge in reports of child abuse cases in the West Midlands.

More than 700 people in the region have reported cases of emotional neglect and abuse to the NSPCC over the past year.

Some 491 of the cases were so serious they had to be referred to local authorities for further action.

The number of calls is up from 319 last year, representing a 54 per cent increase.

Sandra McNair, NSPCC Midlands regional

head of service, said the figures followed a national trend.

She said: "We have seen a surge across the West Midlands in the number of people contacting the NSPCC Helpline about emotional abuse and neglect this year."

"The number of referrals increased for Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley local authorities from last year, with Wolverhampton seeing a 100 per cent increase and Sandwell just over 82 per cent."

"This follows the national trend. We suspect that because there have been a number of high

profile local cases in the media over the last year people are now feeling a greater responsibility to report these concerns."

A total of 40 people from Wolverhampton contacted the charity to report emotional neglect or abuse in the 2013/14 year, with 30 of those cases referred to the local authority - double the previous year's number.

Sandwell had the next-highest number of cases reported, followed by Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.

The figures come as the Government considers a new law to tackle child abuse.

New senior coroner chosen

A FORMER crown court prosecutor has been named the new senior coroner for the Black Country.

Zafar Siddique will take over responsibility of investigating sudden and suspicious deaths in September.

He says he hopes to provide a 'timely and effective' service to families when he takes on the post.

He said he will also pioneer the use of digital imaging in his role, which will cover Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton. He will take over from Robin Balmain, who is to retire after 40 years.

Mr Siddique said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been given the opportunity to serve the diverse communities of the Black Country and wish to build upon the work of the retiring coroner, Mr Balmain."

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Stunning home on market for £9.5m



Mediterranean style Caulin Court — asking price £9.5 million

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However, if you are thinking of putting in an offer on this splendid country home near Kidderminster, it might take more than the Government's Help-to-Buy scheme to help you. The property is on sale for a cool £9.5 million, making it one of the most expensive ever to go on the market in the region.

However, anybody in the fortunate position of being able to buy the house will certainly be getting a lot for their money. Situated amid glorious countryside in the hamlet of Ladywood, near Ombersley, the estate agents say the recently built property 'reflects the splendour of a bygone age while offering all the benefits of modern living.'

"Caulin Court is a magnificent country house which enjoys high ceilings, bespoke joinery and traditional woodwork, along with an intricate attention to detail throughout," says agent Andrew Grant.

'Significant' failings over discrimination

WEST Midlands Police has been criticised by the police watchdog for 'poor' handling of discrimination complaints.

The force is one of three accused of 'significant' failings in the way it dealt with allegations of discrimination, in an Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) report.

Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire forces have also been criticised.

The IPCC said the forces do not take such complaints seriously enough, particularly when made by the public, as opposed to officers. The report said too many complaints were resolved locally without a formal investigation.

The IPCC examined 202 cases of discrimination complaints made to the three forces and found that of 170 that were made by members of the public, only 94 were investigated and none were upheld. Yet overall, the three forces upheld between 11 and 13 per cent of complaint allegations from the public.

Small classes key to school's success

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

OVER the years Norfolk House School in Edgbaston, which was established in 1967, has achieved a well-deserved reputation for excellent examination results and entry to prestigious local grammar and independent schools.

Catering for children aged between three and 11 years, the small classes help children achieve their full academic potential.

In September 2014, three quarters of the current Year 6 class will be transferring to grammar schools with the remainder to independent secondary schools.

Each November the Sunday Times newspaper produces a list of the top independent preparatory schools in the country.

Above

Known as the 'Parent Power League Tables', schools are ranked using scores based on the percentages of children achieving Level 5 in their Key Stage 2 SATs for Mathematics and English.

In November 2013 Norfolk House was ranked 45th on this list.

That ranking placed it above all other listed schools of its kind in the city of Birmingham – a position it has now held for seven out of the last eight years.

Throughout the year, Norfolk House School offers Extra Tuition classes for



Discovering science in a fun way at Norfolk House School in Edgbaston

pupils aged between six and 11 years. Norfolk House Nursery has become one of the foremost providers of early education in Birmingham. Rated 'Outstanding' after their last inspection, they set uncompromisingly high standards in nurturing, educating and caring for children.

A Summer School runs throughout the school holidays for children currently in Years 1 to 6.

Each week has an educational theme and a variety of exciting workshops are arranged to develop creative skills away from the classroom.

For further details visit the website www.norfolkhouseschool.co.uk

Norfolk House School is an independent school for children aged between 3 and 11 years



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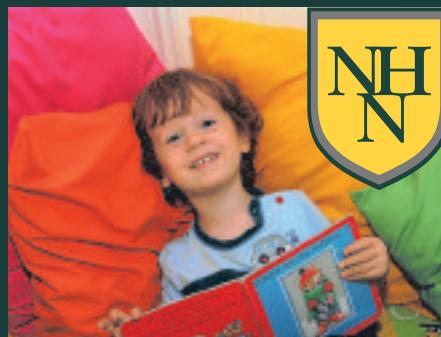
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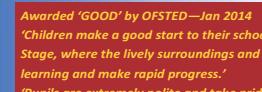
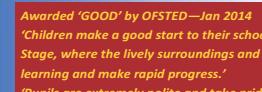
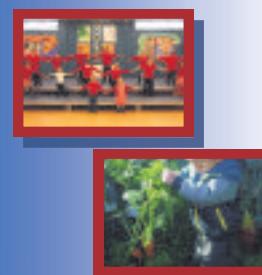
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Seconds and third chance to see Dawn

ACTRESS and comedienne Dawn French brings her show 30 Million Minutes — a rough estimation of her age — to the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, for three consecutive nights from Wednesday to Friday (June 18-20).

The Vicar of Dibley star and former wife of Lenny Henry has based the show on her life and career and describes it as "somewhere between a monologue, a play and an autobiographical slide show with a few funnies thrown in."

Meanwhile, American comedy magic double act Penn and Teller have sold out their performances at the Alex on Sunday and Monday. Direct from Las Vegas, the duo promise jaw-dropping stunts.

Not-so-happy families on stage

THEATRE highlights this week include Alan Ayckbourn's poignant comedy Woman in Mind, in which a vicar's wife is on the edge of a breakdown as she invents a perfect family as an antidote to her real one.

It is staged at Birmingham Rep's main house from tomorrow until June 28.

A loveless marriage implodes with terrible consequences in psychological thriller Design For Murder by Donald F East, featuring Peter Amory from Emmerdale. It is at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Black Country blues guitar heroine coming home for gig

Caitlin to meet her readers

THE eldest of eight children, home-educated in a Wolverhampton council house, Times columnist and best-selling author Caitlin Moran is coming to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next month as part of a UK tour that's heading towards being a sell-out success.

She will speak about men, women, feminism, music and TV, and much more, and reading from her books How To Be A Woman, Moranology, and soon to be published first novel for adults How To Build A Girl.

After the show on Wednesday, July 16, she will be signing copies of her books.

Her experiences growing up in Wolverhampton inspired her to write TV sit-com Raised By Wolves, shown on Channel 4 last year.

Tickets cost £25.75.



Raised in Wolves — best-selling author Caitlin Moran

BLUES rock guitarist Joanne Shaw Taylor will be back on home turf when she appears in her native West Midlands later this year.

Wednesbury-born Shaw Taylor, who now lives in Detroit, will be appearing at Birmingham Town Hall on November 15, hot on the heels of the release of her forthcoming studio album The Dirty Truth.

She made her live debut at the original Robin R'n'B Club in Brierley Hill in 2001 at the age of just 15.

Shaw Taylor will be supported by former Whitesnake guitarist Bernie Marsden for her homecoming concert. Tickets are priced £17.50. The Dirty Truth will be released in the UK on September 22.

The album sees her reunited with Jim Gaines who produced her critically acclaimed 2008 debut album White Sugar.

"I wanted to go back into the studio in Memphis with Jim to retain the same vibe that we captured on the first album," she said. "The new album is a combination of rock and blues, and I think it's going to be an exciting collaboration, and hopefully, my fans will love the rockier edge."

As for this week, as part of her 30th birthday tour, Radio 2 Folk Singer of 2014 Bella Hardy is visiting 30 of her favourite venues with her band The Midnight Watch. That brings her to the MAC in Edgbaston tonight. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) and the show starts 8pm.

Following on from the recent success of When The Lights Go Out acoustic night, Baddies' Boogie will be taking over the studio at the Newhampton Arts Centre, Duncle Street, Wolverhampton, for another showcase of local talent tomorrow night. On the bill this time is Wolverhampton singer/songwriter Daniel Kirk, Loose Lips, West Bromwich's Jak & Dave, Shropshire lad Olly Flavell, Willenhall's Chloe Rose Fisher and Zak Christie. Tickets are £5 and the show starts around 8pm.

More award-winners are coming to Wolverhampton when duo Gilmore & Roberts are guests of the Newhampton Folk Club win the upper room of the Newhampton Inn, Riches Street, on Saturday at 8.30pm. Tickets are £9.

You can hear the traditional harmonies of Caffery and McGurk at Black Diamond Folk Club tonight. The club meets on Fridays at 8.30pm at The Lamp Tavern, Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham, and the club is celebrating its 50th anniversary season.

Thrash mandolin player, TV presenter and comedian Ade Edmondson brings his Bad Shepherds to the Robin2, Bilton, on Sunday. Tickets are £19.50 or £22 on the night. Support from The Shellac Collective.



Black Country blues guitarist Joanne Shaw Taylor

Opera Usher in macabre horror

WELSH National Opera bring three productions to Birmingham Hippodrome for their mini-season from Wednesday to Saturday. Sir John Tomlinson will take the role of Moses in rarely-staged Schoenberg opera Moses und Aron, sung in German with English surtitles, on Wednesday (June 18) at 8pm.

Verdi's Nabucco with Mary Elizabeth Williams in the lead role of Abigaille is staged on Thursday and Saturday (June 19 and 21) at 7.15pm, sung in Italian.

Edgar Allan Poe's macabre tales feature in The Fall of the House of Usher, a double bill of Gordon Getty's Usher House (sung in English) with Debussy's La Chute de la Maison Usher (in French), on June 20.

Martial arts in multi-media show

IMMORTAL Chi, a spectacular blend of Chinese martial arts, acrobatics and percussion from the team that brought the Shaolin Warriors on tour, is coming to the West Midlands.

Conceived and directed by Erick Villeneuve, it tells of Tai Chi master's quest to regain his secret of inner energy, blending traditional elements with dazzling multi-media effects and the sound of the Chinese drummer girls.

It will be staged at Wolverhampton Grand this coming Monday and at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre on June 22 and 23.

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CHOICE



Wayne Rooney

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.30** Trooping the Colour. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. Sue Barker introduces coverage of the semi-finals of the Wimbledon warm-up event, held at the Queen's Club in London. Coverage continues on BBC2. **4.00** Match of the Day Live. **4.30** Match of the Day Live. Colombia v Greece (Kick-off 5.00pm). Coverage of the opening World Cup match for both teams.

7.10 BBC News: Weather. **7.30** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman challenge more famous faces to plumb the depths of their general knowledge. The teams are Coronation Street star Jennie McAlpine (Fiz) and radio DJ Justin Moorhouse, impressionists Alastair McGowan and Kate Robbins, Kate's comedian brother Ted Robbins and fellow funnyman Mark Little, and husband-and-wife TV presenters Trish Farley and Katy Hill. **8.20** The National Lottery: It's In to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Gaby Roslin presents the Lotto and Thunderball draws. Last in the series.

9.10 Casualty. A man with dementia is brought in after suffering a bump to the head, and after giving the staff the runaround he finally settles down thanks to Connie. But as his condition worsens, can she save him? Jeff and Tamzin are called out to a party where the boiler has exploded, putting intense pressure on an already busy department as an influx of revellers turn in the ED. Ethan and Rita suspect one of the partygoers of being bulimic, while a frustrated father is forced to leave without his ill son being seen.

10.00 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day Live. England v Italy (Kick-off 11.00pm). Coverage as Roy Hodgson's men get their World Cup Group D campaign under way at the Arena Amazonia in Manaus, Brazil. Italy also earned six victories and four draws from their qualifiers.

1.30 Weatherview. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 MOTD Kickabout. **8.30** Brazil's Soccer Cities. **8.55** World Cup Films. **10.30** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **11.15** Wimbledon Classics. **1.15** Talking Pictures. **(R) 2.00** Film: Citizen Kane. (1941) Oscar-winning drama, starring Orson Welles. **4.00** Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships semi-finals. **5.30** Flog It! **(R)**

6.30 Trooping the Colour Highlights. The key moments from the military parade when the Colour was trooped by Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards, at Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall, central London, to mark the Queen's official birthday.

8.00 Yes, Prime Minister. Jim feels local government isn't really representative, so is eager to hear more about proposals to reform the system. Sir Humphrey fears this would lead to the civil service losing its power and turns to an unlikely ally to help persuade the prime minister to think again. Political comedy first broadcast in 1988, starring Paul Eddington and Nigel Hawthorne. **8.30** I Love 1988. The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles look back over the year the high-kicking heroes in a half-shell took the world by storm, Bill and Ted set off on an Excellent Adventure and Debbie Gibson went head to head with Tiffany for pop supremacy. This Morning began dominating daytime television, Bros and Neighbours star Kylie Minogue hit the charts, and the emergence of acid house changed the clubbing scene.

9.55 Red Dwarf. Red Dwarf is on a collision course with five black holes and Rimmer comments that the crew members abandon ship and regroup after the danger is over. Cat and Kryten take off in Blue Midjet, while Lister and Rimmer make their escape in Starbug, but are marooned when it is hit by a meteor and crash lands on an icy planet. Comedy first aired in 1989, starring Chris Barrie and Craig Charles. **10.25** TOTP2: 80s Special. Memorable Top of the Pops performances from the 1980s, including Adam and the Ants, Soft Cell, Madness, Culture Club, Pet Shop Boys, Wham!, Bros, Black Box and Lisa Stansfield. **(R)**

11.55 Film: Body Heat. (1981) Thriller, starring William Hurt. **1.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 6.50** Cannimals. **(R) 7.00** Cannimals. **(R) 7.05** Sooey. **(R) 7.20** Digimon Fusion. **(R) 7.45** Horrid Henry. **(R) 8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. **(R) 10.20** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Storage Heist. **(R) 12.30** All Star Mr & Mrs. **(R) 1.30** Fool Britannia. **(R) 2.00** Film: Babe: Pig in the City. (1998) **3.40** Gall & Me: 40 Years on Coronation Street. **(R) 4.10** All Star Family Fortunes. **(R) 5.00** Tipping Point. **(R)**

6.05 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** You've Been Framed! Top 100 Televison. Halliwell narrates a countdown of 100 talent-themed clips sent in by viewers. **(R)**

7.05 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Uruguay v Costa Rica (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the opening Group D match for both nations, which takes place at the Estadio Castelao in Fortaleza, Brazil. While England will be busy preparing for their opening fixture later tonight, their fans will have one eye on this encounter given that it features the other two teams in their group. Uruguay have been among the top 10 nations in the FIFA rankings for some time now, and while they begin as favourites to succeed here, they will need to perform better than they did in the qualifying campaign. Having finished fifth in the CONMEBOL group just behind Ecuador, they secured their place in the tournament via a two-legged inter-confederation play-off against Jordan, and avoided what would have been an embarrassing upset. Costa Rica are one of four nations to have qualified from the CONCACAF region, joining the USA, Honduras and Mexico, and this will be their fourth appearance at a World Cup finals. In eight previous fixtures against Uruguay they have never recorded a victory, losing six times and drawing twice, with the most recent clash ending in a 1-1 draw in 2009.

10.15 ITV News: Weather. **10.30** Road Rage Britain: Caught on Camera. **(R)**

11.30 Film: Play Misty for Me. (1971) Psychological thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. **1.30** FIFA World Cup Live 2014. **4.15** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Trans World Sport. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. **(R) 10.30** Frasier. **(R) 10.55** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 11.50** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.20** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.45** The Tomorrow People. **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from York, Sandown Park and Musselburgh. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 4.40** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.40** Come Dine with Me. **(R)**

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Sue Hood hosts the final night in east Hampshire, hoping to impress her guests with a Caribbean-themed dinner party, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. **(R)**

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. George Clarke revisits Keith and Sheena Montague a year after they battled extreme weather conditions to convert a listed, Thomas Telford-designed church on the Outer Hebridean island of Berneray into a holiday home and artist's studio. The couple also had to overcome the challenge of integrating with the local community while trying to manage the build from their home in Newcastle. George finds out what life is like in their new home and whether they have been successful in winning a prestigious architecture award. **(R)**

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Paul and Penny Denby, who are demolishing their mock-Georgian home on an exclusive south London estate to replace it with a contemporary mansion. The couple have little building experience and struggle with the dozens of design decisions they must make, and find themselves £250,000 short of the amount needed to finish the property. **(R)**

9.00 Film: Forrest Gump. (1994) A simple soul bumbles his way through a series of bizarre adventures, becoming an American football star, Vietnam veteran, table tennis champion and millionaire businessman – but the love of his life continues to elude him. Robert Zemeckis's Oscar-winning comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks, Sally Field, Robin Wright and Gary Sinise.

11.45 Film: The Beach. (2000) Danny Boyle's drama, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Tilda Swinton. **1.55** Hollyoaks. **(R) 4.00** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Chinese Food in Minutes. **(R) 10.15** Meerkat Man. **(R)**

10.45 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. **(R) 11.45** Big Brother: Eviction. **(R) 11.50** Film: Ghostbusters. (1984) Supernatural comedy, starring Bill Murray. **3.15** Film: The Green Berets. (1968) Vietnam War adventure, starring John Wayne.

6.00 Hercules the Human Bear. The story of Andy and Maggie Robin's relationship with a grizzly bear they bought as a cub from a zoo in Aviemore, the Highlands, initially to fulfil Andy's need for a unique wrestling partner, and which went on to become a star of TV and films. The documentary examines the bond that the couple and Hercules forged during their 25 years together, including the time the bear was missing for 24 days in the Outer Hebrides after escaping while filming an advertisement, terrorising the locals and fascinating the public. **(R)**

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents action from the third day of the First Test in the two-match series, which takes place at Lord's. The tourists are still searching for their first-ever victory in this form of the game at the home of cricket, with their last three visits in 2002, 2006 and 2011 all ending in draws, but they will take great heart from their 3-2 victory in the one-day series, which saw them win the deciding encounter in some controversy surrounding the wicket of Jos Butler.

8.00 5 News Weekend.

8.05 The Girl with 7 Mums. Documentary exploring the domestic life of 10-year-old Ellie Sharp, whose father took seven wives and is head of Britain's only openly polygamous family. **(R)**

9.00 Film: Whitney Houston's Last Hours. Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the singer in February 2012, with the post-mortem revealing the damage caused by years of drug and alcohol abuse. **(R)**

10.00 Big Brother: Power Trip. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the first eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants.

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. **(R) 4.00** House Doctor. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide **7.15** Doctor Who **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Edinburgh Comedy Live 2012 **11.00** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.35** The World Cup's 50 Greatest Moments **3.30** Badulls **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **8.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Wallander **10.30** Natural World **11.30** The Comet's Tale **12.30** The Sky at Night **1.00** Tally Tally You: The Science of Chance **2.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **3.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.05 Take Me Out **12.15** I Wanna Marry "Harry" **1.15** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed **2.20** You've Been Framed and Famous! **3.20** You've Been Framed **3.55** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: Stephen's Heroes **5.00** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: Harriet **6.00** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: Surprise Stars **7.05** Film: Year One (2009) **9.00** Film: The Holiday (2006) **11.45** Film: Red Dragon (2002) **2.05** Viral rap **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.50 Pollyanna **2.55** Lewis **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** A Touch of Frost **12.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.05 Film: Dunkirk (1958) **2.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **4.00** Film: Dragset (1987) **6.05** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **7.50** Hornblower (1981) **8.00** Schindler's List (1993) **1.45** Nitro Circus **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

ITV4

2.00 Made in Chelsea **3.05** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** Rude(ish) **Tube 6.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.30** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Film: He's Just Not That Into You (2009) **11.40** The Big Bang Theory **12.10** Rude Tube: Total Stunts **1.15** How I Met Your Mother **2.15** Brooklyn Girls **3.30** The Cleveland Show **4.15** Glee

Film4

11.00 Big Business (1988) **1.00** The Rocker (2008) **2.55** Brewster's Millions (1985) **4.55** Edward Scissorhands (1990) **7.00** The Italian Job (1969) **9.00** Predator (1987) **11.05** Predator 2 (1990) **1.15** Sightseers (2012) **3.15** Close

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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Grudge 2, ITV, 10.35pm

After barely surviving a fire that burned a cursed Tokyo house to the ground, Karen Davis is recovering in hospital. Karen's sister Aubrey travels to Japan to bring her home, but her investigation into the suspicious events leading up to her sibling's injuries sets Aubrey on a frantic mission to prevent menacing supernatural beings from reaching the US. Horror sequel, with Amber Tamblyn and Sarah Michelle Gellar. (2006)

TUESDAY

Rambo: First Blood Part II, ITV, 10.35pm

Incarcerated Special Forces veteran John Rambo is offered the chance for freedom by former commander Colonel Trautman if he takes up the offer to return to the jungles of Vietnam on a life-or-death mission to rescue American POWs. During the course of the operation, he develops strong feelings for his guide, a female freedom fighter – but tragedy strikes, leaving him more determined than ever to exact a bloody and explosive revenge. Action adventure sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone. (1985)

WEDNESDAY

The Hindenburg, Channel 4, 2.20am

The famous German zeppelin is prepared for its fateful transatlantic voyage in 1937, only for the Nazi government to receive word that a plot is afoot to destroy the craft. A security agent is placed on board the airship to uncover and prevent any attempts at sabotage, but finds himself surrounded by a multitude of possible suspects among the passengers. Disaster movie, with George C Scott and Anne Bancroft. (1975)



The Grudge 2, Monday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Terminator 2: Judgment Day, Channel 4, 10pm

A reprogrammed killing machine is sent back in time to the 20th century to protect John Connor, a teenage boy whose destiny is to save the human race. After breaking John's mother out of a mental institution, the pair set out to avert a future nuclear war – pursued by an advanced prototype terminator with shape-changing skills. Sci-fi action adventure sequel, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton. (1991)

FRIDAY

Buster, BBC2, 11.05pm

Fact-based crime drama about the life of Buster Edwards, a member of the gang responsible for the Great Train Robbery. Going on the run after the notorious heist, he flees to Mexico with his family. However, his homesick wife struggles to adapt to their new life, leaving the outlaw with a difficult choice. Starring Phil Collins and Julie Walters. (1988)

Pick of the Week

The Goodmans make a return to our screens

It's been 18 months since we last caught up with TV's favourite Jewish family, the Goodmans – and that's an age in TV terms.

We thought that was it, they'd left our lives forever. But thankfully that's not the case, because here they are, back for a new run of the sitcom.

"I'm so excited to be making a new series of Friday Night Dinner with such a fantastic cast once again," says writer and producer Robert Popper. "I really could not be happier. Well I could, if say, I'd taught crows how to speak and they, in turn, taught me how to fly."

Nerys Evans, Deputy Head of Comedy, Channel 4, adds: "We're thrilled we're going to be spending more Friday evenings with the Goodmans, and not forgetting Jim and Wilson too. Robert's created such a brilliantly warm and funny world, and the cast are just sublime, we can't wait to join them for more Friday Night Dinners."

Although it's truly an ensemble piece, it's Tamsin Greig who

effortlessly manages to grab the spotlight – but then again, she is arguably the leading female light in British sitcom at the moment thanks to this show and the BBC Two hit Episodes.

"I think it's lovely," she says of this project. "The editing is beautiful, as it's written on the page, very fast, tightly shot, very funny and a credit to the people who put it together."

Here she plays Jackie, the matriarch who's very much at the head of the family, a fact that Greig discovered was true to life when she spent an evening with some Jewish friends.

"I went to a mate's house for Friday night dinner and there was a lot of food and the women were really loud," she says, laughing her eyes. "And I was so used that I thought the women might be more retiring, but the women really do run the shindig and I thought that was brilliant."

"But Robert hasn't had to think up any of this. He should really say it was written by his dad!"

However, she does have one problem during filming – sharing the screen with her old Green Wing sparring partner Mark Heap.

A known 'corper', Greig says it was "almost impossible" to film with Heap as Jim the neighbour. "I think there are some scenes where you can't cut to me at all because I'm just laughing out loud every time he moves," she recalls.

At the start of the new run, Jackie is thrilled – Adam seems to be having more luck with the ladies. In fact, at long last, he's bringing a lady (or 'female' as his dad would say) home to meet his parents and brother Jonny. However, as you may already have guessed, the evening doesn't go quite to plan.

"That's because the Goodmans are coming along with an eight-year-old Katie who has a crush on Adam. So when she spots some incriminating photos on his phone, she spies the perfect opportunity to blackmail him into doing everything wants."

And barking like a dog while wearing make-up doesn't go down well with Emma...



Simon Bird stars in Friday Night Dinner, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Tigers About the House

BBC2, 8pm

New series. Documentary following zookeeper Giles Clark as he hand-rears Sumatran tiger cubs Spot and Stripe, which were born at the Australia Zoo in Queensland and are one of the most critically endangered species on Earth. To help give them the best start and ensure their survival, Giles takes them home to live with his boisterous family and gives them round-the-clock care for the first four months of their lives. The film gives an intimate look into the crucial early development of the cubs as they struggle through their first crucial weeks, while Giles embarks upon the toughest parenting job of his life and tries to save the species from the brink of extinction in the wild. Andrew Lincoln narrates.

Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole

Channel 5, 9pm

It's been a hot topic for a while, and there's almost been as much coverage on this subject recently as there has been on the World Cup. Well okay, maybe not quite that much. Figures suggest that there are more people living off benefits now than at any time since the foundation of the welfare state. Some put this down to factors such as immigration, lack of jobs, and, controversially, laziness. But can we really be so judgemental until we understand the circumstances of those who rely on the state? This series aims to give us an insight into the lives of claimants, including Jordan McDonald from Great Yarmouth, who had his benefit payments cut when the job centre discovered he had not attended a work programme.

TUESDAY

Horizon: Where is Flight MH370?

BBC2, 9pm

The inside story of the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH 370, which vanished on March 8 while en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. The film reveals how the Boeing 777 disappeared in a radar blind spot and what investigators believe happened to the aircraft in its last minutes, and hears from the British satellite engineers who tracked the plane's final hours. It also examines new technologies including black-box streaming and enhanced air-traffic surveillance that mean an airliner should never be lost without trace again.

WEDNESDAY

My Violent Child

Channel 5, 9pm

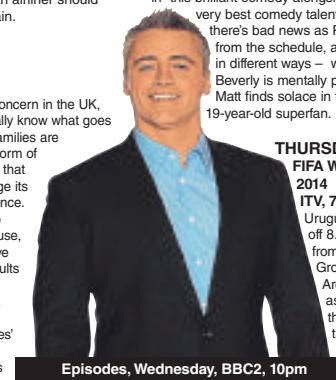
Domestic violence is still a big concern in the UK, and while it's true we'll never really know what goes on behind closed doors, some families are suffering an altogether different form of abuse; one that's so devastating that many refuse to even acknowledge its existence – child-on-parent violence. This one-off programme tells the shocking story of this kind of abuse, and reveals how helplines receive over 11,000 calls a year from adults being physically abused in their home. The documentary takes a look at the hidden world of such violence and follows three families' journeys as they struggle to get their head around their children's

behavioural issues – and cannot help but question what they could be doing differently in their parenting.

Episodes

BBC2, 10pm

Back when television phenomenon Friends ended after its 10-year run, its stars could have been forgiven for laying awake at night with worry about what they'd do next. For Matt LeBlanc, however, that worry would have been wasted energy. Okay, so spin-off series Joey probably didn't do as well as he'd have hoped, but it seems he's found his place in this brilliant comedy alongside some of our own very best comedy talent. In tonight's episode there's bad news as Pucks! is finally pulled from the schedule, and everyone reacts in different ways – with Sean in denial, Beverly is mentally packing her bags and Matt finds solace in the arms of a 19-year-old superfan.



THURSDAY

FIFA World Cup Live

2014

ITV, 7pm

Uruguay v England (Kick-off 8.00pm). All the action from the eagerly awaited Group D fixture at the Arena de Sao Paulo, as both sides play their second match of the tournament. While this may not officially be the

Group of Death, the draw in December did little to breathe life into England's campaign, as Roy Hodgson's men were handed this clash with the South Americans to follow their opener against Italy. While Uruguay struggled in qualifying and needed a play-off against Jordan to make it through, they will still be regarded as one of the favourites due to their outstanding strikeforce, which includes Edinson Cavani, Diego Forlan and Luis Suarez. The injury-hit latter of those three will no doubt attract the greatest attention ahead of this fixture, having proven a controversial character in his time at Liverpool, for whom he was in outstanding form last season. In fact, the striker was at the centre of one of the most memorable moments of the last World Cup, when his last-minute deliberate handball on the goal line against Ghana resulted in his dismissal, although the subsequent penalty miss by Asamoah Gyan saw the match go to a shootout, which Uruguay won to become the only South American representative in the semi-finals.

FRIDAY

Seven Wonders of Brazil

BBC2, 9pm

Brazilian Catholicism is a mixture of influences that has developed since the country was colonised by the Portuguese almost 500 years ago, combining song and dance, African and native beliefs and the faith of the southern Europeans who invaded. In this film, theologian Robert Beckford explores the incredible spiritual diversity of the South American country by examining seven things that embody the melting pot of Brazilian Christianity, from statue of Jesus Christ to the samba beat of the carnival.

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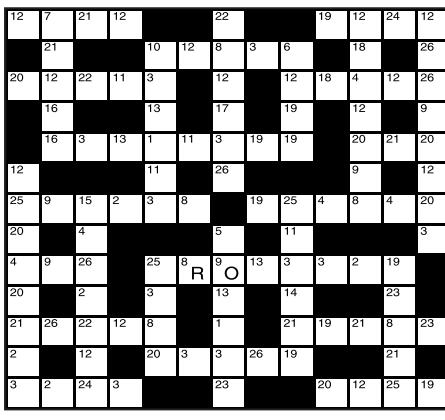
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Brain Gym

No.277

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	K	V	Q	Z	4	T	I	O	F	J	N	U	A	B	13
14	L	R	H	Y	5	S	C	P	D	E	W	G	M	X	15

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

Simple, free, and all in one place.

Visit www.listora.me/2014 to list your next event.

Double Crossword

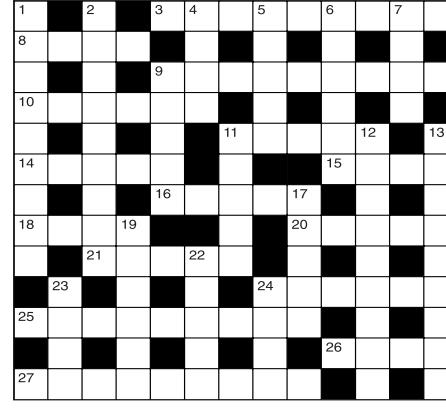
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues: Across

- Old-timer maybe rough to a girl (4-5)
- Dance and swim (4)
- Self-driver (6,3)
- And so I became a fair man (6)
- Another name for a criminal (5)
- Cab he orders to the seaside (5)
- Act in rotation (4)
- Odds, strangely enough (5)
- A revolting subject (5)
- A trail that winds, there may be a catch in it (6)
- Odds, strangely enough (5)
- It's Ena's turn to be reasonable (4)
- In panic he hides in a corner (5)
- Liberal politician has some beer around (5)
- A measure in progress (5)
- A car's crashed by a learner - a culpable character (6)
- A call to order, perhaps (9)
- Antediluvian craftsman (4)
- Member of a team as an extra occupation (2,3,4)

Down

- Barge rate turned out to be an astronomical figure! (5,4)
- Notes - possibly Roman made (9)
- So backward about turning up for work (4)
- A trail that winds, there may be a catch in it (6)
- Odds, strangely enough (5)
- It's Ena's turn to be reasonable (4)
- Well up in a small department (5)
- Not much reason for doubt (9)
- A car's crashed by a learner - a culpable character (6)
- A new combination again (6)
- Has to make professions of loyalty (5)
- Things cracked up to stupefy (4)
- Measure up a door (4)



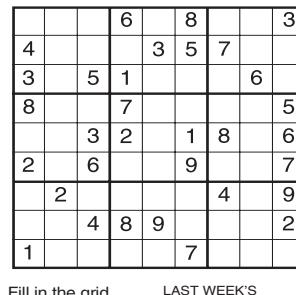
Quick Clues: Across

- Airfield (9)
- Disturbance (9)
- Playright (9)
- Choice (6)
- Proportion (5)
- Daybreak (4)
- Arrive at (5)
- Heath (4)
- Diminish (5)
- Indigent (5)
- Careless (6)
- Melancholy (9)
- Revolve (4)
- Kept (9)

Down

- Penetrating (9)
- Brink (4)
- Playright (9)
- Send (5)
- Enmity (6)
- Inquisitive (4)
- Giver (5)
- Doubtful (5)
- Predatory (9)
- Non-stop (9)
- Harbour (5)
- Alcove (6)
- Discourage (5)
- Rip (4)
- Roam (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	6	8	9	3	7	5	4	1
3	9	7	4	5	1	2	6	8
5	4	1	8	2	6	9	3	7
4	3	6	2	8	5	7	1	9
8	5	9	1	7	3	6	2	4
7	1	2	6	4	9	8	5	3
6	7	4	5	1	8	3	9	2
9	2	3	7	6	4	1	8	5
1	8	5	3	9	2	4	7	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Sham; 3 Spectres; 8 Inca; 9 Joined up; 11 Pouring oil on; 13 Rather; 14 League; 17 Cinema screen; 20 Troubled; 21 Pier; 22 Obsess; 23 Less; 24 Town; 1 Skippers; 2 Account; 3 Plough; 5 Confidence; 6 Romeo; 7 Sam; 10 Life; 11 Sceptre; 12 Meantime; 15 Grenade; 16 Walrus; 18 Irons; 19 Said; QUICK - Across: 1 Castle; 3 Hardware; 8 Thin; 9 Misspent; 11 Red-letter day; 13 Clever; 14 Outset; 17 Picture-house; 20 Obedient; 21 Else; 22 Splitter; 23 Idol; Down: 1 Cataract; 2 Swindle; 4 Aviate; 5 Distracted; 6 Arena; 7 Eats; 10 Pedestrian; 12 Ethereal; 15 Squallid; 16 Orange; 18 Ideal; 19 Toss.



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21 Jun, 5 Jul, 2, 23 Aug, 27 Sep

LLANDUDNO & CHESTER 3 days £89.95

Elvis Tribute Night, Whitehouse Hotel

27 Jun, 25 Jul, 29 Aug, 26 Sep

CORONATION STREET THE TOUR & CHESTER 2 days £79.95

27 Jul, 3, 10, 17, 30 Aug

CARDIFF & BATH MURDER MYSTERY WEEKEND 2 days £79.95

26 Jul, 20 Sep, 11 Oct

MERSEY CRUISE BEATLES TOUR & CHESTER 2 days £69.95

21 Jun, 19 Jul, 9, 30 Aug, 13, 27 Sep

BATH & DEAN FOREST STEAM 2 days £79.95

Plus coffee & cake on board!

19 Jul, 2 Aug, 20 Sep, 11 Oct

ALSO AVAILABLE

LONGLEAT & BATH JERSEY BOYS LONDON 2 days £75

23 Jun, 28, 27 Jul, 2 Aug

LEGOLAND & LONDON 2 days £99.95

21 Jun, 2, 30 Aug, 2 days

YORK & BRONTE COUNTRY DISNEYLAND PARIS 2 days £59.95

12 Jul, 23 Aug, 2 days

STONEHENGE & WEMOUTH £169.95

various dates, 4-5 days

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Penthouse apartment is overlooking golf course



WITH views overlooking Brandhall Golf Course, this spacious three bedroomed penthouse apartment in Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, includes garden terraces.

It is for sale through Tom Giles at £159,950. It has a communal entrance, entrance hall, L-shaped lounge/dining room with a fireplace, a kitchen with double oven, hob, fridge, freezer and dishwasher, L-shaped hallway, utility/laundry, three bedrooms (one converted into an office), shower room, further bathroom, two patios, communal grounds, garage and parking. Contact Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171 or visit www.tomgilesandco.co.uk



Detached house is ideal rental choice for family



A LUXURY modern detached four bedroom house in Birch Lane in Pelsall, Walsall, is an ideal family home. It is available to rent through Redstones at £850 pcm.

This part furnished property is approached by a frontage with driveway to a garage. Neutrally decorated throughout the home has plenty of space for the needs of a growing family.

It has a reception hall, dining room, guest WC, garage and stairs off to the first floor. The lounge has a bay window, feature fireplace while the dining room has double glazed doors. There is also a modern and attractively fitted kitchen with light wood effect units and attractive cream floor tiling and splash back wall tiling, a useful utility room, four bedrooms, bathroom with modern suite, plus garden with lawn. Contact 01922 235350 www.redstones.co.uk



Hicks Hadley

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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



HALESOWEN, Lusbridge close £1,000 pcm - Fees An unfurnished detached house, in a very quiet cul-de-sac location. Briefly featuring 4 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, house bathroom with shower, large lounge, large fitted kitchen, conservatory, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, garage and driveway parking. EPC: E



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road £650 pcm - Fees This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



NEW HALESOWEN, Linton Close £625 pcm - Fees Newly refurbished 3 bedroom semi-detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac position close to shops & major bus route having lounge, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c. 3 good size bedrooms and bathroom with shower, gas central heating, garage and rear garden. A lovely family home. Available early July. EPC: D



NEW PRICE HALESOWEN, Long Lane £625 pcm - Fees A lovely 3 bedroom detached property, close to the railway station and Blackheath Town Centre. Featuring 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, large lounge with dining area, breakfast kitchen with all integrated appliances, bathroom with white 'P' shaped bath and shower, double glazing, gas central heating, parking available for 1 car. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: E



BEARWOOD, St Marys Road £615 pcm - Fees A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place £600 pcm - Fees Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb 1st floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Meadow Walk £595 pcm - Fees Quiet location and modern living. A fully redecorated semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Aqua Court £550 pcm - Fees Beautifully presented half floor apartment, a stone's throw away from Blackheath. Features 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, open plan kitchen/living room, double glazing, allocated parking space, viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Beecher Road £550 pcm - Fees A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane £530 pcm - Fees A super fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



NEW PRICE HALESOWEN, Green Lane £525 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An unfurnished end of terraced property close to all amenities featuring 3 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, new upstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing throughout, gas central heating, off-road secure parking space at rear of property. EPC: TBC



BARTLEY GREEN, Wolverley Road £525 pcm - Fees A spacious mid terraced house in a sought after location and close to local shops. Featuring a fitted breakfast kitchen, through lounge/dining room, 3 good size bedrooms. Benefits include rear garden. Convenient location for Birmingham. On road parking. EPC: TBC



NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf £525 pcm - Fees A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks. This property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Green Lane £525 pcm - Fees Traditional terraced house close to Blackheath and not far from the train station. This great house features 3 good size bedrooms, fitted breakfast kitchen, downstairs modern bathroom with shower, 2 beautiful reception rooms. Benefits include large garden. On road parking. Beautifully presented. Must be viewed. EPC: TBC



NEW HALESOWEN, Grange Crescent £525 pcm - Fees We are pleased to offer this extremely well presented 2 bedroom 1st floor flat conveniently located close to Halesowen Town Centre and local amenities. The property comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, large driveway, rear private garden & garage. EPC: D



NEW PRICE DUDLEY, Gammie Street £495 pcm - Fees Ideal for Russells Hill Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terraced 2 bedroom property in the popular Russells Hill area. Features 2 double bedrooms, reception hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, rear garden with patio area, on road parking, available early June. EPC: F



CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £485 pcm - Fees This lovely part furnished 2nd floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 1 double bedroom, sofa, fitted kitchen with small fridge, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking, and communal garden. EPC: B



NEW PRICE BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £450 pcm - Fees Not to be missed is this 1 bedroom ground floor flat which has just undergone a full refurbishment. Standing in its own private garden, this is a bright and airy property. Inside, this unique property comprises of lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen, bathroom suite with shower & 1 double bedroom, outside rear garden. Available now. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £425 pcm - Fees Located a few minutes from Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This lovely 1 bedroom modern end-terraced house available unfurnished or part furnished to suit comprising of: Open plan lounge/kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower. EPC: E



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £425 pcm - Fees Located a few minutes from Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This lovely 1 bedroom modern end-terraced house available unfurnished or part furnished to suit comprising of: Open plan lounge/kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower. EPC: E



NEW CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road £400 pcm - Fees This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, allocated parking, on road parking, NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D



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OLDBURY

NEW
SISKIN CLOSE

- Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Cloaks W/c
- Four Bedrooms Master With En-suite Shower Room plus
- Property Benefits From Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Integral Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

£224950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



CRADLEY HEATH

NEW
THE RETREAT

- Modern Detached Bungalow Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen/Diner Family Bathroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Master Bedroom With En-suite Shower Room
- Side Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain Internal Viewing Recommended

£200,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

NO CHAIN
CASTLE ROAD WEST

- Extended Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To Front Garden To The Rear
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

£180,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



BARTLEY GREEN

S.S.T.C.
FLAVELL CLOSE

- Modern Semi Detached Property EPC D
- Lounge Conservatory Kitchen-Diner
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Fired Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

£165,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

REDUCED
UPPER MEADOW ROAD

- Immaculate Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Block Paved Driveway Large Rear Garden Garage To The Rear

£152500 QUINTON 0121 4217766

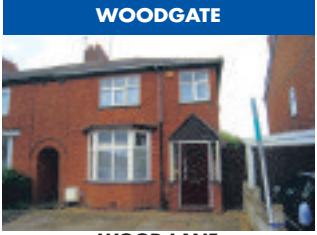


OLDBURY

S.S.T.C.
CORNWALL AVENUE

- Well Presented End Terrace Property EPC
- Through Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room W/c
- Driveway And Garden To Front Garden To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

£130,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



WOODGATE

£125,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

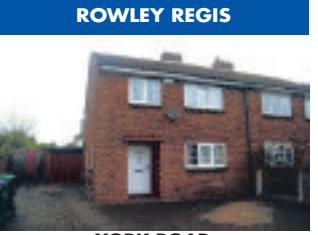


OLDBURY

REDUCED
WOOD LANE

- End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Area Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Driveway To The Front Large Garden To The Rear

£125000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



ROWLEY REGIS

YORK ROAD

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room Utility Room Cloaks W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

£125,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

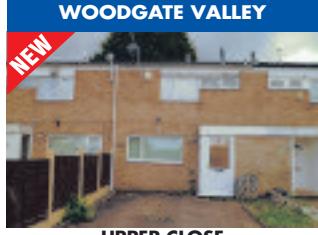


QUINTON

REDUCED
SIMMONS DRIVE

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Recommended

£120,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

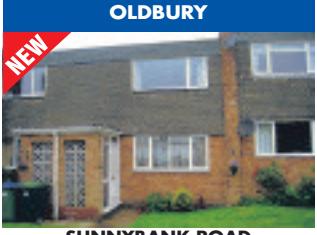


WOODGATE VALLEY

NEW
UPPER CLOSE

- Mid Terrace Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen/Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Off Road Parking To Front Garden To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Recommended

£115,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

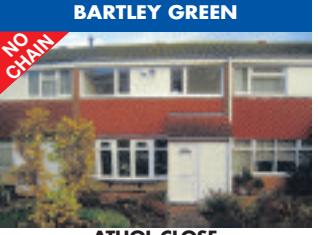


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NEW
SUNNYBANK ROAD

- First Floor Maisonette EPC Rating F
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Double Glazing Night Storage Heating
- Well Maintained Communal Gardens
- Cul-de-sac Location Internal Inspection Recommended

£95000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

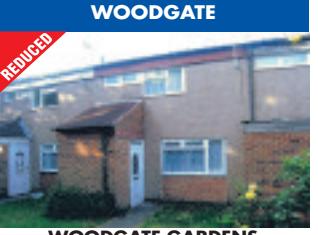


BARTLEY GREEN

NO CHAIN
ATHOL CLOSE

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Good Sized Kitchen-Diner
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gardens To The Front and Rear
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

Offers Over £95,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

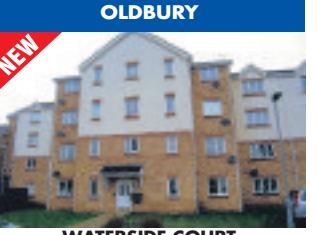


WOODGATE

REDUCED
WOODGATE GARDENS

- Mid Terraced Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen-Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Recently Re-furbished No Upward Chain

£94950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

WATERSIDE COURT

- Top Floor Apartment EPC Rating C
- Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazed
- Allocated Parking Space No Upward Chain

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QUINTON

WHITE ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Double Glazing
- Furnished Property Immediate Availability

£695m QUINTON 0121 4217766



HALESOWEN

LEAFIELD GARDENS

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Immediate Availability

£595 PCM QUINTON 0121 4217766

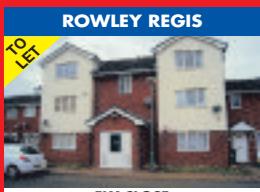


HALESOWEN

GEORGE ROAD

- Spacious End Terrace Property EPC Rating E
- Reception Room Fitted Kitchen Downstairs W/c
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Off Road Parking To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Immediate Availability

£575 QUINTON 0121 4217766



ROWLEY REGIS

ELY CLOSE

- Ground Floor Apartment EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Allocated Parking Area
- Ideally Located For Road, Rail and Motorway Links
- Well Presented Property Viewing Recommended

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View Drive, Dudley



EPC D

Manson Drive, Cradley Heath



EPC C

£160,000

This modern three storey property with lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, two en-suites, utility, garage, drive, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.



Offers Over £250,000

Detached four bedroom property with lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen/diner, study, utility, en-suite and family bathroom.

Apperley Way, Halesowen



Help to Buy
AVAILABLE

EPC D

Offers Over £150,000

Detached house comprising lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and bathroom, garage and gardens. Halesowen.

Lyde Green, Halesowen



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £60,000

A second floor one bedroom flat offering well proportioned room sizes. Halesowen.

Badsey Road, Oldbury



Help to Buy
AVAILABLE

EPC E

£55,000

This second floor flat offers the following accommodation lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and communal garden. Halesowen.

Wrens Nest Road, Dudley



Help to Buy
AVAILABLE

EPC D

£130,000

Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, downstairs WC, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Lambert Fold, Dudley



EPC C

Offers Over £100,000

Mid terraced, well presented, two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, loft space and allocated parking.

Alwin Road, Rowley Regis



Help to Buy
AVAILABLE

EPC E

Offers Over £160,000

Convenient for many local amenities and transport links, this detached house. Store/garage, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

Green Lane, Halesowen



EPC D

£75,000

This traditional mid terraced property comprises lounge, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

Foxlea Road, Halesowen



Awaiting EPC

£220,000

This mucklow style property situated in a premium location comprises lounge, three bedrooms and garage. Halesowen.

Cowley Drive, Dudley



EPC C

£155,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, two reception rooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Muirfield Crescent, Tividale



EPC D

Offers Over £180,000

Three bedroom link detached property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, study, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom, garden and garage.

Rugeley Close, Tipton



EPC C

£70,000

Modern two bedroom second floor apartment briefly with allocated parking space and views overlooking the canal.

Auris put it on my charge

By David Banner

The Prius gets all the plaudits in Toyota's line up but the Auris Hybrid might well have been the better car. In second generation guise, it can offer emissions as low as 84g/km.

What are the priorities when it comes to hybrid vehicle dynamics? In order, refinement, then refinement followed by refinement. People don't buy these cars to fling round corners or smoke the tyres away from the lights.

A good hybrid hatchback should be about pure relaxation and low stress. It should promote a calm, measured driving style and remind the driver that the journey can be enjoyed in ways other than outbraking someone into a roundabout. Extensive soundproofing in the engine bay, front wheel arches and dashboard has reduced engine and road noise intrusion in the cabin of the latest Auris Hybrid.

The 1.8-litre VVT-i petrol engine was already one of the smoothest in its class and with the addition of the electric motor, it's also reasonably brisk. It'll make 62mph in 10.9 seconds on the way to 112mph.

When operating its switchable all-electric EV mode, the Auris Hybrid generates zero CO₂, NOx and particulates for distances up to 1.2 miles at speeds up to about 31mph, according to the level of battery charge and driving conditions.

Auris Hybrid buyers get to choose either a five-door hatchback bodystyle or the Touring Sports estate. We tried the ordinary hatch and found a few aesthetic

hybrid-specific styling touches. The lower grille and lower part of the rear bumper are finished in a graphite gloss paint and the Toyota emblems on the bonnet and tailgate are finished in hybrid blue. Hybrid logos are featured on the front wings and there is a hybrid mark on the tailgate. Other features exclusive to the Hybrid also include LED rear light clusters and new 15 and 17-inch Turbine alloy wheels.

A hybrid meter and specific Eco Drive Support monitor feature on the dashboard. The gear lever is finished in hybrid blue and there is hybrid-specific ornamentation on the instrument panel. According to grade, the instrument panel has a hybrid blue brushed aluminium finish. Ice blue leather or black leather inserts will be available on higher grades.

Premium

Auris Hybrid pricing starts at around £20,000 – and there's an £1,100 premium if you want the Touring Sports estate version. That means you're looking at a premium of around £1,500 over the conventional 130bhp 1.6-litre Valvematic petrol model in each case.

This hybrid model is available in Icon and Excel trims. Icon features 15-inch alloy wheels, a six-speaker DAB stereo, the Toyota Touch multimedia control screen with Bluetooth and a rear view camera, plus some leather on the wheel and gear shifter. The top Excel model gets the lot thrown at it. There's velour and leather seating, dual zone climate control, park assist, rain-sensing wipers, heated front seats, Smart Entry and Start, cruise control, dusk-sensing lights and so on. That's on top of kit like seven airbags, a



If you feel like dipping out of the rush hour rat race, the Toyota Auris Hybrid makes a very attractive haven. Think of it as a detox for your commute

follow-me-home lighting system, Hill-start Assist Control, Vehicle Stability Control and LED daytime running lights. The Active grade includes automatic air conditioning, a four-speaker CD audio system with USB and AUX connection, electrically adjustable, heated, body-coloured door mirrors and electric front windows. All that for around £20k. There's a premium of around £1,800 to find if you want to graduate from the Icon to the plusher Excel.

The CO₂ emissions and fuel returns vary a little with the trim level chosen. Icon hatch models can return 84g/km - or 85g/km in the Touring Sports estate. Combined cycle consumption is 74.3mpg. If you go for a plush Excel hatch though, the CO₂ figure is 91g/km and the fuel figure 72.4mpg.

Which means that overall, even a top Auris Hybrid model will cost less for a company to offer on its fleet than a more modestly specified, mid-grade car.

For the company car driver, the personal savings are considerable too. If you feel like dipping out of the rush hour rat race, the Toyota Auris Hybrid makes a very attractive haven. Think of it as a detox for your commute.

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Spec unveiled for Ypsilon

Details and pricing for the revised Chrysler Ypsilon range have been announced by Fiat UK.

The range features new entry and premium versions, additional equipment on the mid-range car, fresh colour choices, and new names that bring the UK series in line with the rest of Europe.

Powered by a choice of three economical, low emission engines – 1.2-litre 69 hp petrol, 1.3-litre MultiJet 95 hp diesel and 0.9-litre 85 hp petrol – the range now comes in three trim levels, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

With a starting price of just £9,895 for the 1.2 Silver, the new Ypsilon, which is available in the UK now, represents outstanding value for money.

Ypsilon Silver, which replaces the S

version, is comparably equipped but includes internal and external styling changes, new seat design and detail finishes. The exterior is further enhanced by a refreshed colour range which includes three new colours: Marble Grey, Khaki Grey, and Saphire Blue.

Linked to the paint colour is a choice of internal and external finishes to items such as front grille, door mirror covers, hub cap centres and dashboard panel – all of which are available in either gloss black or matt dark grey. Added to this, the final accent colour is also selectable between Coconut, Watermelon or Lime, dependent on the body-colour.

The new Ypsilon Gold version is a direct replacement for the outgoing SE, and is identical in both equipment (including 15in alloy wheels, air con-

ditioning, leather-wrapped steering wheel and power door mirrors) and look – with the addition of Blue&Me as standard equipment. This allows the driver to connect an external music device and stay legal and safe with built-in Bluetooth technology for telephone calls on the move.

Top-of-the-range Platinum version takes Ypsilon back to its origins as a luxury small car. Packed with unprecedented standard equipment, it features include 16in alloy wheels, automatic climate control, rear power windows, cruise control, part leather seats and Magic Parking, which helps the driver park in tight spaces.

We are confident we are offering an attractive package, with excellent technology and equipment, at exceptional value-for-money prices, says Damien Daily, head of brand, Chrysler UK."

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Mazda3 is setting the benchmark in its sector

By David Banner

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There's a lot to tempt buyers to take a look at the new Mazda3. It has strong residual values, lowest average depreciation and 2014/15 company car benefit-in-kind tax bills lower than a host of rivals.

Data from vehicle valuation experts CAP Automotive reveals the new SKYACTIV Mazda3 range tops the table and beats lower-medium sector rivals in terms of average forecasted pound-note depreciation.

And company car drivers wanting to cut their benefit-in-kind tax bills can make significant savings against more expensive rivals.

The all-new Mazda3 is the third car in the marque's line-up to benefit from SKYACTIV technology and the 36-strong model line-up offers precision handling, exceptionally generous interior cabin space and sporty design.

And it certainly has proved popular since hitting the roads at the turn of the year, with sales exceeding all expectations at around 3,000 for the first quarter.

And starting with the looks, if cars did benefit from working out, it would be the new Mazda3. It's lost weight, and become shapelier, more agile and has rivals looking on with envy.

While it bears the same name as the outgoing hatchback, the Mazda3 is new from the ground up. Larger than its predecessor but engineered for fuel economy, it has features which also have paid dividends in terms of safety, roadholding and the fun-to-drive factor.

The car is a fraction lower, visually fitting in with its curving lines and sculpted surfaces while also helping to reduce drag.

In the four-door Fastback, the long boot has a useful 419 litres of space, slightly more than its hatchback stablemate which also has the practicality of split-fold rear seats.

The facia is made of what looks like durable textured plastics, with an instrument binnacle comprising two information displays either side of a large rev counter. Inset is a big, clear digital speed readout.

The latest Mazda3 gets four engine options, all of which are designed around Mazda's SkyActiv technology. SkyActiv aims to improve efficiency by reducing weight and utilising smart functions such as capturing waste energy to power things like the air-conditioning when the car is stationary.

Closes

It even extends to functions like an active shutter front grille which closes for better aerodynamics when the engine isn't immediately need of cooling.

Engines comprise an entry-level 1.5-litre petrol and two 2.0-litre petrol units, as well as a 2.2-litre diesel. The 1.5-litre engine produces 99bhp and will go from rest to 62mph in 10.8 seconds, while the 2.2-litre diesel will cover the benchmark sprint in 8.1 seconds, thanks to its punchy 148bhp engine. Mazda reckons a less powerful diesel engine will eventually be offered to UK customers, but it may take quite a while.

The 2.0-litre petrol engine is offered in two options – one with 118bhp and the other with 165bhp. As for performance, 0 to 62mph in 8.9 seconds for the standard version and 8.2 seconds for the higher power version. Buyers of the 118bhp 2.0-litre petrol and the 2.2-litre diesel are also offered the option of a six-speed automatic.

The car is offered with the sort of hi-tech features that not so very long ago were the preserve of luxury saloons. There are refinements like a head-up display, touch-screen satellite-navigation and mobile internet connectivity. The mobile system is particularly interesting, following the likes of Toyota into the market with a system which allows the car to pair with a smartphone and display Facebook and Twitter updates. A nine-speaker Bose audio system is also available.

Buyers choose between SE, SE-L and Sport trim levels, with or without sat nav. Even the base SE comes with 16in alloy wheels, air conditioning, power-folding heated mirrors, a leather steering wheel, a trip computer, a radio/CD with six speaker audio system, 7in TFT colour touch screen, USB/iPod connectivity and a Bluetooth hands-free system. All models also come with Smart City Brake Support (SCBS) which helps to reduce or prevent low-speed collisions by automatically applying the brakes if the driver fails to act, plus there's Hill Hold Assist (HHA) to prevent roll-back.

The latest car looks a good deal more assured, with a vastly improved interior, a focus on improving efficiency and a really sharp exterior styling job.

On-the-road prices start at £16,695 for the all-new Mazda3 1.5-litre SKYACTIV-G 100ps SE Hatchback and extend to £23,345 for the all-new Mazda3 2.2-litre SKYACTIV-D 150ps Sport Nav Auto Hatchback. Meanwhile, on-the-road prices for the all-new Mazda3 Fastback featuring the emission-busting 2.2-litre SKYACTIV-D 150ps (104g/km) engine start at £19,245 for the SE derivative and extend to £22,145 for the Sport Nav variant.



Mii Mango is big in the style stakes

By Sharon Walters

The order books have opened for Mii by Mango, Seat's most highly specified compact car yet.

Built on the belief that thinking small shouldn't mean sacrificing on style, the special edition's arrival is the result of a collaboration between Seat and influential Spanish fashion company Mango.

Available in both three and five-door bodystyles, priced at £10,995 and £11,345 respectively, this newcomer is a flagship addition to the Barcelona-based brand's successful Mii family.

Sharing the model's already appreciated attributes of quality and impressive packaging, coupled with running costs which are among the lowest in the segment, Mii by Mango builds on this with additional beauty in the detail.

Boasting a lengthy list of additional standard features, over the Sport on which it is based, fashion meets functionality in a car that's all about youthful yet tasteful design.

The first visual cue to this catwalk-inspired edition is the Mii by Mango badging and choice of colour schemes. Uniquely, there's the option of either custom-palette Nude with dark grey alloys or a Deep Black metallic hue and silver wheels. Privacy glass plus contrasting side trim detailing and door mirrors complete the look.

Unique

Emphasising its status as a halo model, Mii by Mango also benefits from an interior makeover. The unique leather and perforated Alcantara upholstery add an aura of real luxury with the contrast piping and stitching, as well as branded door sills, floor mats and key fobs, creating a bespoke feel to the cabin environment.

Mii by Mango wants for nothing in the way of equipment either, with remote central locking, electric windows, air conditioning, Isofix anchoring points and a suite of airbags for the safety conscious. The Seat Portable System Live adds to the driving experience, with satellite navigation, Bluetooth hands-free connectivity and audio streaming.

Additionally, a Mii by Mango Style Pack is available as an option. This includes a panoramic glass sunroof and front fog lights for £690.

The Mango edition's launch also coincides with ESC, tyre pressure monitoring and Hill Hold Control becoming standard on all Mii trim levels.

Despite making a fashion statement, Mii by Mango won't disappoint on the move. Powered exclusively by the higher output 75PS version of the VW Group's three-cylinder 1.0-litre engine with five-speed manual gearbox means there's adequate performance matched with impressive eco credentials. The vital statistics are: 0-62mph in 13.2 seconds; 108g/km CO₂; 60.1mpg combined.

First deliveries are expected in August.



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Awesome warp speed car but at what a cost

By David Banner

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The race for power, pace and prestige has been well and truly joined by the German triumvirate of Audi, BMW and Mercedes, all of whom have produced fire-breathing beasts which wouldn't look out of place on a Formula 1 track.

A product of the finest technology the Audi RS7 is simply awesome, the 560ps four litre twin turbo V8 delivering warp speed and power as the firm seeks to attract the big spenders in search of thrills on four wheels.

It is a huge, stunning-looking car, sleek, curved and angled in all the right places and shod with 20 inch alloys – although the stylish 21 inch five-spoke bladed black wheels on this model are the matter of another £2,000.

But it does look good as do all RS models, with its low stance, its predatory-looking lights with LED surrounds and all the red RS badging and trim exuding a look of power – and it doesn't fail to deliver.

Harnessed to Audi's quattro four-wheel drive system and a seamless eight speed automatic gearbox, the car powers from 0-60mph in 3.9 seconds – and just for the record, if you can get it on a race track or the German autobahn, it has a top speed of nearly 190mph. The eight-speed automatic gearbox is barely registers the gear changes, but if you like you can have fun with paddles behind the steering wheels.

The acceleration is enough to have you and your passengers reaching for the neck brace, and there is a satisfying V8 roar from the twin exhausts under acceleration.

Sophisticated

It also has amazing grip thanks to the all-wheel drive system but even then all the sophisticated electronics are battling to keep it in straight line.

If it looks like a flying machine without wings from the outside the interior is pure space age, featuring just about about every gadget, well most, you could want from a car costing more than £80,000.

Well, that's not strictly true and in this case the car was loaded with extras worth an eye-watering £30,000, including a Bang & Olufsen sound system at more than six grand.

High tech features can include goodies such as cockpit-style head-up display which projects info onto the windscreen, multi-settings for engine management and suspension set up via the intelligent central brain controlled from the console between the two front seats. This also controls music, navigation and telephone connections.

Fixtures and fittings are pure luxury with a sporty look and soft touch finishes abound.

The four interior seats are also sporty but comfortable. Made from honeycombed quilted leather with grey stitching, they grip the occupants firmly but comfortably.

Flying machine it may be but it is also fairly practical, comfortably accommodating four adults and features a large, shallow but long boot which is accessed via the large hatchback tailgate.

The rear seats fold increasing the 535 litres stowage space to more than decent 1,390 litres.

Fuel consumption is probably not an issue when forking out this much cash, but average consumption according to the car's computer ended up at nearly 25mpg, not bad against a claimed 28.8mpg and I didn't have to fill it up after every couple of lampposts. It seems odd to have stop/start technology on such a car, but perhaps it did shift up that economy figure.

The 560ps is not much good if the car won't stay on the road and as you would expect of a car of this pedigree, the handling is faultless, with the all-wheel drive traction and stability programmes making it cling to the road limpet like on fast corners.

The ride however, can be like a go-kart especially when the dynamic option is selected on those engine management settings. Even when switched to comfort mode the ride is borderline harsh. But if you buy a sporty car like this, that probably is not an issue.

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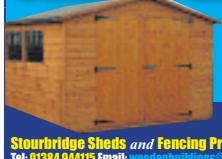
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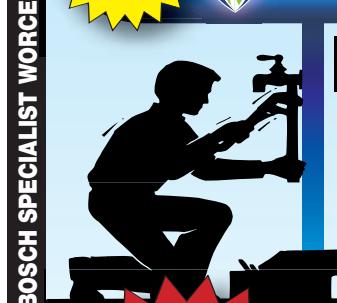
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Summers digs deep to find victory

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers had to dig deep after an early onslaught to overcome Luke Allon in a tough chief support six-rounder.

Summers was stepping back up to light-heavyweight and felt the added power of Allon early on, shaking off a super-stiff straight left in the first round.

He was forced onto the back foot after taking a big right hook in the second round, before becoming the aggressor.

Summers backed up Allon in the ropes and let fly, wearing him down with hooks to the body. It gave him heart for the rest of the fight.

Those early shots proved a distant memory as he ended the fight coming forward, Allon standing off and waiting for the final bell.

Referee Gareth Morris had Summers the winner of every round with a 60-54 verdict.

Coseley's Ryan Corrigan bounced back from his first professional defeat with a hard-fought victory over Harvey Hemsley.

Nearly three months on from a damaging first-round loss to Mark Morris in Northern Ireland, the 22-year-old super-featherweight returned.

Downing excited at changes

PAUL DOWNING sees another summer of major change at Walsall as an exciting opportunity – and not something for fans to fret over.

The ever-improving central defender added his voice to those of Dean Smith's players backing the manager to turn up trumps in the transfer market.

For the third summer running, Smith is facing an overhaul with key figures Andy Butler and Craig Westcarr removed from the roster and doubts still about one of his top signings, left-back Andy Taylor, staying.

But Downing accepts those left behind must step up and take more responsibility as Smith once again tries to work the oracle in

Heathens warned of threat from big Ben

By Nigel Pearson

CRADLEY'S big guns have been warned to expect a big challenge from former British Under-21 Champion Ben Wilson when Stoke visit Monmore next Tuesday.

And the Potters include Heathens asset Jon Armstrong, who raced for the club in 2010 and 2011 and is still popular with supporters.

It's a welcome return to home league racing for the Heathens, who have only had four meetings at their Monmore base all season thanks to rain.

They're expecting a good turnout as speedway-starved fans look to see their side

in action again. Boss Will Pottinger said: "Stoke obviously have a good top end with the likes of Ben Wilson and Armo and our lads will be on their guard."

"I expect this to be a competitive meeting with Stoke looking to come here and put on a good show. I'm sure they will bring some supporters down the M6 with them too."

"From our perspective we will just be looking to put three more league points on the board to maintain our push for the play-

offs. The lack of meetings has been frustrating although the lads have been busy with their other league clubs, but as a club we have been inactive which is a shame."

Before Tuesday, Cradley head to Plymouth on Saturday to face league newcomers Devon with a 1.15pm start.

They will be without Steve Worrall who is riding for Edinburgh and the rider replacement facility will operate. Tom Perry starts at reserve.

And on Sunday Heathens go to Milden-hall for the National League Pairs Championship and will be represented by Worrall

and Max Clegg. Paul Starke is unavailable due to a fixture clash with Somerset.

The club have announced only standard £10 tickets are remaining for the evening with club legend Billy Hamill next month.

All £25 VIP passes have been sold for the event, which has attracted the backing of Motor Market in Cradley Heath.

Hamill will appear for the evening on stage with broadcaster and joint Cradley owner Nigel Pearson at the Copthorne Hotel, Level Street, Brierley Hill on Sunday, July 27. And he will be joined by former Heathens riders Alan and Andy Grahame.

They don't 'arf know how to run for DK

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford running club travelled north on Sunday in search of a swift 'arf, the Potters 'arf, a half marathon starting and finishing in Hanley Town Centre and travelling the 13.1 miles around Stoke on Trent.

A combination of a blisteringly hot day and some brutal hills throughout the course made for a testing event but good support at the roadside and locals turning their hosesips on passing runners certainly helped.

With the winner, Anuradha Cooray, going on to represent Sri Lanka in this summer's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the blue hoops were certainly in good company. Although some way behind the winner they still placed well in a field topping nearly two thousand competitors.

First back for DK was Matt Biggs taking 25th place in 1.25.09. Dave Norman came home in a frustrating 1.30.03 for 72nd place, Mark Judge was 235th in 1.41.36, Mark Homer finished in 1.42.59. Russell Fox stopped the clock in 2.01.51 for 794th place and Andy Weaver nursed his shredded hamstring around the course in 2.09.45 for 1018th.

Single score enough to beat Stour

National Club T20
Stourbridge CC 120
Oswestry CC 121

STOURBRIDGE CC took on Oswestry on Sunday at home in the ECB National Club T20 Competition.

A delay in the start curtailed the match to 17 overs.

Home skipper Mikesh Patel entitled to claim the toss batted first and saw his side post a decent target on a slow paced pitch.

Stour pinned their hopes on the in-form Steve Game and Josh Banks for a target beyond 130. Oswestry openers Warrick Fynn and Mark Robinson relished the opportunity offered by pace put on 71 off 10 overs; Stour was 55-2 at the same stage. Paceman James Winders bowled Sam Hales for 16.

zaman shows star quality on the pitch

ALL-ROUNDER Basit Zaman starred with bat and ball as West Bromwich Dartmouth beat Kenilworth Wardens by three wickets to stay top of the Premier Division.

The 19-year-old Warwickshire leg-spinner claimed 6-31 as Wardens were dismissed for 142. Then he opened the batting and top-scored with 43 as his side reached 143-7 in reply in 31.2 overs. Captain

Kadeer Ali made 26 at the top of the order and his side still lead the table by 15 points from Brockhampton.

A four-wicket haul from Gareth Williams helped Kidderminster to a winning draw against defending champions Shrewsbury.

Mike Hill made 65 and Craig Wood 53 as Kidderminster made 175-6 before Shrewsbury were left hanging on in reply, making 98-9 with Williams claiming 4-22.

Walsall remain in the bottom three after being forced to settle for a losing draw against Knowle and Dordridge despite four wickets from Pakistan Test player Umar Amin.

Amin took 4-48 as K&D made 149-9 in 30 overs in a ran-a-reef match, but Walsall came up short in reply and battled to a draw on 135-8, thanks largely to an unbeaten 49 from Jack Biddulph.

Bottom side Himley were skittled for 58 by Brockhampton as their early-season struggles continued with a 51-run defeat.

Brockhampton made 109-6 in 23 overs in a weather-affected match, but only two batsmen made double figures as Himley were rolled over in reply.

Tank rolls over his rival to take the victory



Dudley's Ryan Aston celebrates after beating Stanislav Nenkov

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston used Stanislav Nenkov to make a statement to Britain's light-middleweight division after clobbering the Bulgarian to stoppage on home turf, writes Craig Birch.

The home-town hero headlined at The Venue on Saturday night and left the European visitor well beaten, six rounds into a scheduled 10.

'Tank' rolled over his 19-year-old opponent, who was halted for only

the second time, with 10 seconds of the round left.

Nenkov had already been floored with a booming right hook earlier in the session, which sent him careering into a neutral corner and to the canvas.

Aston nearly punched himself out as he attempted to follow up but Nenkov eventually crumbled again, taking a knee after absorbing a barrage of stiff body shots. He rose

again but had no interest in further punishment, his demeanour forcing referee Shaun Messer to wave an end to the contest.

Nenkov had gone the distance with Rowley Regis' Jason Weborn at Walsall Town Hall last month, with the British title contender looking on from ringside for this one. Tipton's Ricky Summers had to dig deep after to overcome Luke Allon in a tough chief support six-rounder.



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Hussain beaten on points decision

MOHAMMED Hussain's remarkable rise to the national final of the England Junior Championship fell at the last with a unanimous points loss, writes Craig Birch.

The 15-year-old, who had never boxed in competitive bouts before the tournament, fell at the last.

He stepped through the ropes at 50kg in Class B, for boxers born in 1998, with everything to fight for in the decider at the TA Centre in London.

Hussain came out like a house on fire in the first round as two stylists tried to outsmart each other, but it was him who faded as time wore on.

Opponent Michael Chalk, from Guildford, dragged him into the trenches from the second and had the stomach for the scrap.

Hussain stepped up to the plate and traded leather towards the end but both showed restraint, the bout going to the cards after a cagey bout.

Trainer John Shakespeare said: "Mo boxed well, in competition boxing he's been a revelation so far and he will only learn as he gets more experience."

"We are proud of how he's coming on and the annoying thing is I know he could have done better."

Wolves join striker race

WOLVES are one of four Championship clubs chasing Coventry striker Callum Wilson.

Head coach Kenny Jackett has now followed up his enquiry in January with firmer interest in the 22-year-old hotshot, who Coventry rate at up to £3m.

Wilson, who scored 22 goals last season, is also on the radar of Bournemouth, who have serious financial clout now they are under Russian ownership, but not Nottingham Forest.

Wolves are unlikely to bid as high as £3m, but they have signalled their intentions to the Sky Blues and it is understood they have asked to be kept informed.

Coventry development director Steve Waggart said: "At the moment our view is that Callum is not for sale. We have had approaches from four Championship clubs."

Mole aims to keep stadium plan on track

CRADLEY Heathens speedway club have taken on a leading figure in the sport to boost their prospects of securing a deal to build a new stadium.

Tony Mole, who helped the Birmingham Brummies return to the track and is British Speedway President, has taken up his role with the National League side.

He has been a regular face at Heathens fixtures over recent years and is also credited with turning around the fortunes for other clubs in the country.

Heathens officials have been locked in talks with landowners about the availability

Speedway

of as yet unspecified site in Dudley borough.

This site have changed ownership recently and club chairman Nigel Pearson said the time had come to renew focus on the project.

He welcomed the news that Mr Mole, who lives in the Kidderminster area, has come on board with the plan to bring fresh impetus to the stadium bid.

"It is good to have him on board. We have identified a piece of land a while ago. The land has been investigated and the survey-

ors have also been on site," said Mr Pearson who works as a journalist and sports broadcaster.

"Whilst we were in dialogue with the owners, the ownership of the land has changed.

"Tony can take this on as he has time and experience to take on the project to try and pursue the matter for us.

"We know that time is getting on and its drifting away but we want to get back on track as soon as possible.

"We are all busy and involved with our own business interests at the same time as

running the speedway team. But Tony is semi-retired and has time on his side and we believe we have the right man for the job and he has been well received by the supporters."

Cradley Heathens reverted to its original name in recent months as more than 1,000 fans have been regularly attending meetings at their temporary home at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium.

And although the Heathens are thriving at their shared Wolverhampton base, the management members remain determined to take them to a new home.

Game on to retain Thorne

ALBION are braced for a summer-long struggle over George Thorne despite dismissing an opening £950,000 bid from Derby.

The Baggies rebuffed the offer on Monday night and told Rams chief executive Sam Rush not to bid again.

But the East Midlands club are already thought to be preparing a second bid and Thorne is keen on the move after impressing during a five-month loan spell at the iPro Stadium last season.

And that means Albion still face a fight to keep the 21-year-old despite issuing a hands-off warning on all of their players last night following bids for Thorne and Craig Dawson in recent days.

Terry Burton, speaking publicly for the first time as Baggies technical director, said: "George has progressed through the academy into the first-team squad and we have high hopes for him."

He underlined his potential while on loan at Derby and we have no intentions of selling him. We have told Derby he is not for sale and that is the end of the matter as far as we're concerned.

Midlands trio are cup seeds

WOLVES, Walsall and Birmingham City have all been seeded for the Capital One Cup first round draw.

The three West Midlands teams are all in the southern half of the draw, which will be made next Tuesday at 10am.

The seedings means they can't play each other at the first-round stage.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, June 12

Jordanne smashes way to second grand slam title



Britain's Jordanne Whiley with tennis partner Yui Kamiji receiving their trophies after the victory

BRITAIN'S wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley has won the second Grand Slam title of her career at Roland Garros.

Whiley, from Halesowen, was partnering Japan's Yui Kamiji to win the women's doubles wheelchair tennis title, beating Dutch top seeds Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot 7-6(3), 3-6, (10-8) in a thrilling final.

It's the second successive Grand Slam title for the Whiley and Kamiji

iji, who won the women's doubles at the Australian Open in January after ending 2013 by winning the Doubles Masters in California, USA.

The second seeds took a 5-3 lead in Paris and came within two points of taking the first set in both the tenth and 12th games, but Griffioen and van Koot, who won all four Grand Slam titles in 2013, forced a tie-break.

It's the second successive Grand

lead in the tie-break and converted the first of three set points.

Whiley and Kamiji went on to race to a 3-0 second set lead, but defending champions Griffioen and van Koot forced the deciding match tie-break. The British-Japanese duo took a 4-1 lead in the decider, before Griffioen and van Koot drew level at 6-6 and 8-8. However, she and Kamiji ultimately held firm to seal a fine victory.

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